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City of London past
and present:
Pictures, back page

Civil servants poised for national strike

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The crisis in the Civil Service deepened last night after the collapse of negotiations between unions and the Government. Union leaders immediately signalled approval for an escalation of the action among staff responsible for payment of unemployment benefits, and took the first step towards calling a national strike.

They left a 30-minute meeting with Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council and Minister responsible for the Civil Service, angrily complaining of being "deceived and conned" by ministers who had made clear that the 7 per cent pay offer would under no circumstances be increased.

The Government countered that the proposals made for this year's increase to 540,000 white-collar civil servants, and arrangements for pay harmonising in the future, were fair and reasonable.

The executives of the two largest unions the Civil and Public Services Association and the Society of Civil and Public Servants last night agreed to recommend to members an all-out indefinite strike. The results of the meetings will be known in 10 days.

Leaders of the nine Civil Service unions, whose reaction to the Government's firm stance ranged from disappointment to outrage, decided after a late-night meeting to start arranging a national strike to last at least two weeks.

Executives of the other large unions are to meet during the next few days and are expected to recommend an all-out strike to their members, although the 100,000-strong Institution of Professional Civil Servants still favours intensification of the current programme of selective strikes.

However, if the majority view among the unions is for a national strike, it is expected that any unenthusiastic union would swing its support behind the strike.

Little prospect of an early settlement

It is understood that the Prime Minister was told by government whips that if concessions were made to the unions there would be a revolt by Conservative backbenchers. That view was forcibly put by Mrs Thatcher at a meeting earlier this week with Lord Soames and Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister of State at the Civil Service Department, which prevented Lord Soames from making a small improvement in the pay offer, which had been expected at yesterday's meeting.

The Council of Civil Service Unions, which is coordinating the selective strikes, reported that "tens of thousands" of civil servants had left their posts after hearing the result of the meeting with Lord Soames. The walkouts led to the closure of the Department of Employment's statistical computer at Runcorn, Cheshire.

With attitudes in the dispute now polarized there appeared to be no prospect of an early settlement, and some union

Hattersley condemns intimidation by far left

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Home Secretary last night called on Mr Wedgwood Benn to condemn the "bullying and blackmail" which was taking place in some constituency Labour parties.

He told a Labour and trade union meeting in Norwich: "Much of the intimidation is being organized by the rank and file mobilizing committee and the fraudulent national Campaign for Labour Party Democracy."

"This week, the mobilizing committee published a 'hit list' of 150 Labour MPs whose offices were to have supported Mr Michael Foot's criticism of the Wembley conference decision on the method of electing the leader and deputy leader of the party. As an example of mindless intolerance it takes some beating."

"Included on it were left-wingers, ranging from Mr Albert Booth to Mr Jeff Rooker, Mr Sydney Bidwell and Mr Russell Kerr."

Mr Hattersley added: "Michael Foot's defence of real party democracy, his description of the way policy is decided, and his insistence that the interests of the whole movement must be placed above personal ambition must have convinced thousands of our members and supporters that the tales of treason and default are crude libels."

He continued: "In the vast majority of local Labour parties, intimidation would not be tolerated. Indeed, one of our problems in stamping it out is the disbelief with which such allegations are received in the normal democratic branch meeting."

"But I fear that there is conclusive evidence that in some places, loyal party members, standing up and shouting down if they speak up against extremism, and are excluded from every office and all influence if they refuse to hunt with the hard-left pack."

It was not simply a matter of the resolution of MPs, Mr Hattersley said, a subject on which there was great concern within the Parliamentary Labour Party.

"Hard-working councillors whose views are ideologically unacceptable to the far left are being refused recognition. Minorities are being openly reviled and abused," he said.

In another attack on Mr Benn, Mr Shore, the shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, told a meeting of the Labour Solidarity Campaign in Cardiff:

"Never in the history of the party has an elected leader felt compelled to put his own leadership on the line and to challenge another to contest him. The challenge is far more startling because as those who know him well will not dispute, Mr Foot is the most radical, the most serious and committed socialist leader that the party has ever had."

The choice, Mr Shore said, was simple, direct but unavoidable. "The Labour Party can be led by either Michael Foot or by Tony Benn... it most certainly cannot be led by both. Tony Benn, that cuckoo in the nest, cannot coexist, cannot ride in tandem, in the leadership of a party led by Michael Foot."

Mr Benn must withdraw his charges, accept collective responsibility under Mr Foot's leadership or take the honourable course and fight for the leadership itself.

There had been a formal charge from Mr Benn which no Labour leader could ignore. "We must see that the leadership of Michael Foot, and the whole effectiveness of Labour in Parliament, is not destroyed by the election to deputy leader of a man who does not trust his colleagues and who no longer commands their trust in him."

Mr Benn stays in hospital

Mr Wedgwood Benn was said yesterday to be feeling better by a spokesman for Charing Cross Hospital where he was admitted on Thursday complaining of pain in his leg.

A number of routine tests have been carried out, including blood tests, and an electrocardiogram. Mr Benn will remain in hospital until the results are available.



College window of tribute

The stained glass window (above) in Lancing College chapel will be dedicated today on the college's Founder's Day. The window, measuring 21 ft by 61 ft has seven scenes depicting stages in the building of the chapel, including the planning. The chapel was started in 1868 and taken over by the Friends of

Lancing Chapel in 1946. The window will be a memorial to all those who have worked on the building. Bishop Morrell, Provost of Lancing, will dedicate it. The school is the 'chief school of the Woldward Corporation'. The window was designed by Mr Arthur Buss, the artist, in cooperation with Mr Stephen Dykes Bower.

Photograph by Harry Mann

\$2 cut in N Sea oil price as sterling slips again

By David Blake and John Whitmore

Britain cut the price of its North Sea oil by \$2 yesterday as sterling fell again in foreign exchange markets. The British National Oil Corporation told the oil companies that it was reducing its official oil price to \$37.25 a barrel from July 1 in response to the continuing slump in the world market.

The drop in the oil price came on a day when sterling was further depressed by weak prospects for oil and the continuing strength of the American dollar.

The pound closed down 1.2 cents at \$1.9290, having fallen at one stage in the day to \$1.9075. It has lost 14 cents over the past week. Sterling's effective exchange rate closed at 93.8, down 1 percentage point on the day. The pound also lost ground against most continental currencies, but the continuing strength of the dollar was the most important factor in exchange markets.

The United States currency was buoyed up by new signs of rising interest rates in the United States. It gained 45 points against the German mark to close at DM12.4153.

In spite of the sharp downturn in the pound's value in international markets, Mr Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank of England, told bankers in Switzerland that there would be no change in Britain's interest rate policy at home.

The message was at most only half belied by the markets, which pushed up the

interest rate at the weekly tender for Treasury bills from 11.4 to 12.4 per cent, a gain of a full percentage point. This will put pressure on the authorities to raise interest rates in coming weeks and would certainly rule out any cut in the minimum lending rate from its current level of 12 per cent.

Fears of rising interest rates and uncertainties about the prospect of a civil service strike brought a new wave of pessimism to the stock exchange. The FT industrial index fell 9.3 points to close at 346.3. Most big companies recorded substantial losses and gilts also fell.

Britain's markets have been hit by double trouble. Sterling has become the first currency in the firing line for international money speculators as a result of recent moves to prop up the franc and the mark. Interest rates on the Continent have been forced up in response to the rise in interest rates in New York, leaving the United Kingdom with some of the lowest interest rates in the industrial world instead of the highest as during last year.

At the same time, the confidence factor, which pushed sterling to record heights last year, have started to turn against the United Kingdom. There are growing doubts about the British Government's ability to bring inflation down much from its present level of around 12 per cent, while the

newly-installed Reagan Administration in Washington is basking in the glow of admiration caused by its monetarist policies.

At the same time North Sea oil is thought likely to be a less valuable asset than was predicted in 1980. The cut in the BNOC official price comes after many months in which market prices had forced the accounting in the world oil markets. Leading oil companies made it plain yesterday that they did not think the price cut was big enough. They wanted the price reduced by around 55.

Major petrol producers warned motorists not to expect cuts in prices at the pump. They said that prices would still be too low for them to make a profit.

Britain is now a net exporter of oil, so the fall in the oil price will hurt our balance of payments. Falling oil prices throughout the world will also benefit the payments positions of other industrial countries, thus making sterling a less attractive currency. It had, in spite of heavy pressure in the markets, the Bank of England seems to have engaged in only limited intervention to stabilize the pound's rate.

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ICL workforce to be cut by 16 per cent

By Bill Johnstone

ICL, the largest British owned computer manufacturer is to reduce its workforce by 16 per cent and shed 5,200 jobs. A reduction in the 31,000 workforce had been expected, but the scale of the cuts caught most employees by surprise.

The news was broken in a statement read to union representatives in London, and simultaneously to employees at all ICL offices and plants yesterday morning.

The statement, signed by Mr Robert Wilmut, the managing director, who joined the company only three weeks ago, said: "The board's latest assessment of the company's manpower needs shows a further overall surplus of 5,200 employees. We propose to reduce this surplus by starting consultations immediately with a view to initiating a redundancy programme."

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers Technical Administrative and Supervisory Section (TASS), one of the principal unions at ICL, was highly critical.

Mr Ken Gill, the general secretary, called the cuts a national scandal.

"It is not just the disaster of another 5,000 jobs of unemployment, especially in the North-west and Scotland," he said. "Just when Japan is pouring

thousands of millions of pounds into its computer industry we are virtually nothing to save ours. Instead of making hopes, noises about the future of information technology, the Government must give ICL an immediate heart transplant."

At the end of March the Government underwrote a loan guarantee for ICL of £200m over two years. The company's bankers, which include Barclays and National Westminster, extended loan facilities to £70m.

The financial slide of ICL appeared to accelerate in the first half of the year. The previous chairman, Mr Philip Chappell reported a loss of £20m and Mr Christopher Laidlaw, the new chairman, is expected to report a half yearly loss on Monday which is about £35m.

The Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS), another prominent union at ICL, said that it was "deeply concerned" because the company had given only a broad outline of where cuts would fall.

A spokesman for the union said: "Our members are phoning us to give them more information and we have not got it."

The statement said that the company's worldwide marketing group would lose 2,500 jobs of which 1,000 were overseas.

Reagan's nominee snubbed by Senate

From David Cross
Washington, June 5

In President Reagan's worst political defeat to date, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday overwhelmingly rejected the nomination of Mr Ernest Lefever, a conservative academic, to the senior human rights post in the State Department.

The final vote, which came after a lengthy cross-examination of Mr Lefever yesterday, was 13 against his confirmation and only four in favour. Five Republican members joined the eight Democrats on the committee to oppose Mr Lefever by the unexpectedly large margin.

Mr Lefever's supporters included right-wing conservatives like Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, as well as Senator Howard Baker, the moderate Republican leader of the Senate, who had promised to support the nomination on behalf of the President, albeit without great enthusiasm.

Explaining why he objected to Mr Lefever's nomination, Senator Charles Percy, the moderate Republican leader of the committee, said that confirmation of the candidate would be an unfortunate symbol and signal to the rest of the world.

He added that he objected to Mr Lefever's strident opposition to human rights abuses in nations hostile to the United States.

After a first round of stormy hearings before the committee last month, Senator Percy urged the President to withdraw Mr Lefever's nomination, but his advice was rejected. Mr James Baker, the White House chief of staff, explained before today's vote that Mr Reagan believed very strongly that he should stand by his nominees.

Today's vote means that confirmation of Mr Lefever's nomination will now undergo a difficult fight on the floor of the Senate. If liberal Democrats decide to stage a filibuster, at least 60 votes would be needed to end it and there are only 33 Republicans in the Upper House.

During yesterday's closed hearing Mr Lefever denied allegations that a conflict of interest existed between a conservative research centre, which he has run, and the Nestlé Company over the delicate question of sales of delectable substitutes to mothers in poor countries. It has been claimed that Nestlé paid \$25,000 (£12,500) to the centre in exchange for the latter's promotion of the substitutes' sales.

Mr Lefever also rejected claims by two of his brothers that he had once believed that blacks are genetically inferior to whites. According to members who attended yesterday's committee meeting, the latest cross-examination failed to uncover any new information about Mr Lefever's background. But it also failed to change any minds already leaning against the approval of his confirmation.

Test-tube twins in Melbourne

Melbourne, Saturday morning —The world's first test-tube twins, a girl and a boy, were born at the Queen Victoria Hospital here today. They arrived two weeks prematurely after doctors induced the birth.

The mother, who went into labour yesterday evening, is aged 31. Her name was not released. The twins bring the number of test-tube births in Melbourne to six.—AP.

RUC tip-off to IRA claimed

From Christopher Thomas and Tim Jones, Belfast

A full-scale police investigation has been ordered into allegations that a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary handed over the names of police informers to the Provisional IRA.

The man worked as a clerk in the CID office and it is thought his betrayal caused the deaths of three or perhaps four men.

Mr Peter Valente, one man allegedly betrayed, had money pinned to his body when he was found: an indication to the police that the IRA knew he was a double agent.

The RUC man's information is also thought to have been directly responsible for the deaths of Mr Maurice Gilvary and Mr Patrick Trainor, who were murdered within a four-month period in 1979. Two of the deaths can be traced directly to the RUC man, who was a full time police reservist.

He is now said to be living in England anonymously. He fled after his suspected betrayal became known for fear of "loyalist" retribution.

The investigation has been called at the request of Mr John Lemeran, the Chief Constable of the RUC.

Ulster propaganda item scrapped

The World in Action television programme about propaganda in Northern Ireland has been scrapped by Granada Television, which has refused demand by the Independent Broadcasting Authority to drop sequences showing Patsy O'Hara, a dead hunger striker, in an open coffin (Martin Huckerby writes).

The 'Propaganda War' was due to be broadcast last Monday but was postponed because of the IRA objections. Granada was optimistic that it could resolve the difficulties, but yesterday it said it did not want to show the film in a cut form.

Police satisfied with life sentence for shooting of PC Olds

By Craig Seton

Stuart Blackstock, the "dangerous and evil" Hell's Angel gunman who shot and crippled Police Constable Philip Olds, was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday for wounding the policeman with intent to resist arrest. Leslie Cooke, his accomplice, was jailed for a total of 12 years.

The jury, which the day before had cleared the two men of attempting to murder PC Olds, was not present for sentencing. Their decision had been shared by the verdicts, but the Central Criminal Court, London, and from the constable's shocked colleagues.

Yesterday, after the sentencing, PC Olds, aged 29, now confined to a wheelchair, said: "I think the judge has given the maximum that he could. I am very satisfied, but I would still have liked to see both men convicted of attempted murder."

Mr James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, said: "I think the judge has given the maximum that he could. I am very satisfied, but I would still have liked to see both men convicted of attempted murder."

He was found guilty by an 11-1 majority and was sentenced to life imprisonment for wounding with intent to resist arrest. He was also sentenced to 15 years for the attempted robbery of an off licence in Hayes, Middlesex, two days before last Christmas and a total of five years for possession of two firearms, which he had admitted. Three other terms will run consecutively.

Mr Justice Skinner told him: "I am satisfied you are a dangerous and evil man. I think you are absolutely essential that criminals who carry firearms and criminals who attack the police officers should be punished severely. You have done your best to ruin the life of a young and courageous man for the sake of a few pounds. You in particular have a lot to answer for," said the judge.



PC Olds: "Judges are shrewd."

Mr Blackstock, who insisted during his trial that he did not intend to shoot the policeman, was told that the medical evidence showed he suffered from a serious personality disorder.

Mr Justice Skinner said: "On the evidence before me I cannot say when, if ever, it will be safe to release you. Therefore, I must pass a sentence on you which will both punish you and ensure you will never be released for so long as you remain a danger to the public."

The judge described Mr Cooke, aged 21, as "a stupid, weak and contemptible man" who had gone along on the raid knowing that Mr Blackstock had a loaded gun which he was prepared to use to frighten anyone who got in his way.

Mr Cooke was jailed for 12 years for the attempted robbery, which he had admitted. He was further sentenced to five years having been found guilty of unlawful wounding and five years for possession of firearms, which he admitted. The two

five years terms are to run concurrently, but consecutive with the 12 years sentence.

The judge said it was unfortunate that after the jury had acquitted the two men of attempted murder, overnight comment had seemed to suggest that the verdict implied the jury might have rejected PC Olds's evidence.

He said: "There are two things I cannot emphasize too strongly. One is that the jury could only have found as they did if they accepted PC Olds's evidence that you deliberately shot at him. Secondly in my judgment, if PC Olds had died as a result of that shooting you would have been guilty of murder. The jury only acquitted you of shooting with intent to kill."

As Mr Cooke, of Northolt, Middlesex, was led to the cells he swore at the judge and hit out at the dock.

During the trial the court heard that Mr Blackstock and Mr Cooke, both Hell's Angels with criminal records, planned a robbery last Christmas. Mr Blackstock was armed with a .22 Luger loaded with three live rounds.

After failing to take money from an off licence in Hayes they ran into the street and were confronted by PC Olds, who had left his car to buy sweets for his night duty.

The policeman drew his truncheon and called on the men to halt. Mr Blackstock turned and fired from close range.

Outside the court yesterday PC Olds, who is separated from his wife and lives alone, confined to a wheelchair in Pinner, Middlesex, said: "I would do the same thing again in the circumstances. I have regrets. I cannot walk anymore. I cannot go to the toilet like anyone else and I cannot make love anymore. I have lost all physical functions below the chest."

PC Olds said as a serving officer he could not comment on the sentences; but he knew his colleagues were delighted. "It is obvious that judges in this country are shrewd men and I still maintain we have the finest and fairest system of justice in the world."

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Lord Soames discussing the grim news with the press.

MPs vote 18% rise for themselves

MPs voted themselves a salary increase of 18 per cent, after explaining that it was really only 6 per cent if the arithmetic was done properly and sums withheld in previous years were deducted. Page 2

Young England win

The England Under-21 side remain top of their group in the European championship after beating Hungary 2-1. The senior team, who play in Budapest today, were promised a better future by Mr Jack Dunnett, a Labour MP, and new president of the Football League. Pages 2, 22

Child car ban vetoed

A ban on children travelling in car front seats was ruled out by the Secretary of State for Transport. Children were better protected in accidents if they were restrained, even by belts not specially designed for them, he said. Page 3

Nato entry delay

Problems involved in bringing Spain into Nato may delay a formal application until after September, diplomatic sources said in Madrid. Page 4

Namibia mission

Mr William Clark, the United States deputy Secretary of State, is to visit Pretoria next month to try to coax South Africa into a settlement on Namibia. Page 5

Leader page 15	The French Left: Sentences on PC Old's attackers; Norfolk Broad; Obituary, page 16	Gilts suffered further losses of up to £11 on fears of higher interest rates. The FT index closed down 9.3 to 546.3.
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Runcie condemns murder of another UDR man

From Tim Jones, Belfast

Gummen orphaned another two children in Northern Ireland yesterday when they ambushed and murdered a part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment. Mr. Thomas Reggie Graham, aged 38, became the seventh member of the regiment to be killed this year when he was shot down as he delivered groceries to a house near Lisnakea, 10 miles from the border.

The gunmen had broken into the house and when the housewife returned from taking her child to kindergarten, held her hostage until Mr. Graham arrived.

His murder was immediately condemned by the Roman Catholic community in England and Wales.

The cardinal and Mr. Atkinns agreed that it was the Government's responsibility to continue to provide and keep under review a humanitarian regime in Northern Ireland.

It was important and urgent, the statement said, that all concerned should work for a political settlement to the historical conflicts in the province.

According to the cardinal, Catholics in Britain felt great sorrow over the injuries, deaths and bereavements resulting from the disturbances of the past decade which had increased again since the hunger strikes in the Maze Prison.

Dr. Runcie said at a press conference in Dublin that he was totally opposed to political violence being granted to prisoners in Northern Ireland (Our Dublin Correspondent writes).

To do so, he said, could raise more questions than it solved and create trouble ultimately for the Republic.

The archbishop said he told Cardinal Tomás O'Fiaich when he met him earlier this week that the main issue for their two churches was the question of the disturbances of the past decade which had increased again since the hunger strikes in the Maze Prison.

On the Maze prisoners' demand, Dr. Runcie said that British authorities had shown a lot of flexibility, for which they had not always been given credit. They had listened to what had been said by the human rights commissioners.

Any move that was made, he said, should be extended to all prisoners.

With less than a week to polling in the Irish general election, the Opposition leader, Dr. Garret FitzGerald, last night launched a blistering attack on the Northern Ireland policies of Mr. Charles Haughey the Prime Minister.

Mr. Haughey, Dr. FitzGerald told a rally in Roscommon, was relying on the British Government to tackle the crisis, had based his policy exclusively on his relationship with Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and was failing to listen to the Northern Unionists.

According to a statement issued after the meeting they had a wide ranging discussion.

Mr. Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, yesterday warned trades councils that an end to the trade union movement's non-sectarian policy on Ulster would imperil "the very lives of our colleagues in Belfast".

He urged the annual conference of trades councils to throw out a motion calling for withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland and declared that the TUC would not be party to it if it was passed.

The motion from the Greater London Association of Trades Councils, due to be debated in Southampton this weekend, also calls for the ending of emergency powers and restoration of special category status for detainees.

Mr. Murray told delegates that the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of

Glaciers over Britain is the Hoyle forecast

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The Earth could slip into an ice age in 10 years, say glaciologists spreading over Britain, most of North America and northern Europe, according to Sir Fred Hoyle, the astronomer.

Although no stranger to controversy, the new theory that Sir Fred expounds in a book to be published next week called *Ice* will cause a stir extending far beyond the academic world of climatology.

Such an event would obviously have catastrophic implications for humanity. Inevitably his theory will provoke sharp rejoinders from experts who adhere to more established ideas, such as the periodic glacial episodes spaced thousands of years apart and which involve changes over several centuries.

He was not particularly concerned yesterday that his theory might catapult him into the centre of stormy argument. It was a matter he has been pondering for a long time. He said: "You cannot spend your

time looking over your shoulder about what other people might think. That is not an issue which crosses my mind."

"I am fiercely critical of my own work and I take advice of other able colleagues in my research. But once I am satisfied that I have drawn the right conclusions, I am prepared to stand by them, and I am prepared to stand by them."

His ideas, which probably will become known as the diamond dust theory, would plunge the planet into the grip of an ice age more rapidly than any of the other predictions made by scientists over the years.

As with all the theories Sir Fred has put forward in a provocative career, this one is accompanied by diligent research. It is not an argument to be followed easily by the technically squeamish. But there is one straightforward phenomenon that, if thoroughly grasped, brings the notion down to earth.

It is demonstrated by a simple experiment. If air that has been thoroughly dried, which contains a number of microscopically small droplets, is cooled gradually to very low temperatures in a chamber, the droplets do not solidify into ice crystals as the temperature falls below the normal freezing point of water.

In fact, the droplets stay in this supercooled liquid form at a very low temperature, close to -40°C, before they suddenly turn to ice.

The importance of this phenomenon lies in the fact that if you shine a light beam into the chamber when the droplets are liquid, the interior appears dark because the light is transmitted. When the droplets solidify, a sudden radiance appears in the chamber as the ice crystals scatter the light.

The formation of this form of supercooled ice crystal has been described by explorers in the Antarctic as diamond dust. The

relevance to climatic change is that large numbers of ice crystals formed in the upper atmosphere would reflect an increasing amount of sunlight back into space.

There are several events that could provide a trigger for the formation of diamond dust on a scale that alters the climate of the world, according to Sir Fred. But they involve creating a veil of dust in the atmosphere, from a large disturbance such as a volcanic eruption or a meteorite impact.

Sir Fred has no doubt about such an occurrence. It is not whether it will happen; but when. Evidence of past disturbances examined by Sir Fred indicate the scale of disturbance that would precipitate a slide into ice age.

Asked if the eruption of the St. Helen's volcano, in the United States, might have already started the process, he said it was now clear from the data that it was far too small an eruption.

Benefits to mothers threatened

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

The unemployed and mothers who have recently given birth are expected to be the first to be affected by the intensified Civil Service dispute on Monday.

New pensioners are also likely to receive without their state pensions in four weeks' time because of the dispute.

Stopping three benefit computers from Monday will mean that unemployment benefit cheques will have to be written by hand in local employment offices, and that new or adjusted claims for child benefit will not be processed.

The consequence delays are expected to lead to more claims for social security, over-payments of benefit and disruption of the present campaign against fraud and abuse.

New pensioners will be affected because forms advising them of their pension rights, normally sent out 16 weeks before their retirement, have not been issued since the beginning of the dispute. This pension entitlement cannot be calculated because their contribution records are in another computer that has been out of action.

Emergency procedures to be introduced on Monday will allow the unemployed to receive benefit without signing on each fortnight as available for work. Post offices will pay child benefit on expired order books, and families on supplementary benefit will receive their allowances increased automatically for new babies.

The extra workload on unemployment benefit officers in having to write giro-cheques that are normally issued by two computers will inevitably mean delays. Those already registered are expected to suffer least, since their benefits have already been assessed.

But the newly unemployed will still have to sign on, and if the pressure of work leads to employment offices closing, will have to claim supplementary benefit for urgent needs.

New mothers not receiving supplementary benefit will face considerable delays in receiving child benefit, since only a few local offices can process their claims.

Last night the Council of Civil Service Unions drew attention to new pensioners' position in a letter to MPs, in the hope that there would be renewed pressure on the Government to resolve the dispute.

Leading article, page 15



Cheap at the price: Subsidized tomatoes by the box-load at East Street market, south-east London, yesterday.

Tomato growers attack the Dutch invader

By Robin Young, Consumer Affairs Correspondent

British tomato growers may soon be following the example of their Irish colleagues by picketing ports so prevent landings of Dutch tomatoes. Representatives of the British glasshouse industry have joined a demonstration by 4,000 European growers in Bonn, protesting at what they claim is a determined Dutch horticulturalists' attempt to undermine all competition.

Mr. Ian Cummings, chairman of the glasshouse produce and flower growers' association, the National Farmers' Union, said yesterday: "The British housewife must support the home industry. If the Dutch are allowed to take over they will soon be charging whatever price they think fit."

Britain's complaint, which has been taken up by the European Commission in Brussels, is that the Dutch have an unfair advantage because they are sold by a state-owned company at special discount rates.

The difference in fuel costs is said to be £10,000 an acre of glasshouse; equivalent to 4p to 5p per pound of fruit. The Dutch have recently increased gas tariffs, but glasshouse growers still receive their fuel at one third below the price charged to other industries. The Dutch also said that the difference will be removed in five half-yearly stages, starting in April 1982.

The British and other European growers say that this undertaking is full of loopholes, since no increases are to be introduced before a survey of Dutch growers' costs is made, and there has been no undertaking that Dutch fuel prices will not in future be subsidized for all industrial consumers.

The Dutch industry has also been given a £57m grant to spend on energy conservation, while the British growers have seen £53m promised by Mr. Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, swallowed by the oil companies through price increases.

The Dutch increased their exports of tomatoes to Britain by four-thirds last year and they are now supplying one-third of the British market.

Dutch tomatoes do not for the most part differ in kind from the English produce. However, Dutch growers have been quicker to start producing beef tomatoes—large, irregular shaped, fleshy fruits derived from the French variety Marmande. About one-fifth of Dutch shipments are now beef tomatoes.

Mr. Cummings said yesterday: "There is a very limited demand for beef tomatoes. Caterers and sandwich-makers are happy enough to have them, but the housewife wants a nice round tomato of normal size."

That did not seem to be true as a north London branch of Safeway yesterday had Dutch beef tomatoes, weighing 1½ pounds each, were outselling English round by two to one, though both were priced at 50p a pound.

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The Dutch increased their exports of tomatoes to Britain by four-thirds last year and they are now supplying one-third of the British market.

Dutch tomatoes do not for the most part differ in kind from the English produce. However, Dutch growers have been quicker to start producing beef tomatoes—large, irregular shaped, fleshy fruits derived from the French variety Marmande. About one-fifth of Dutch shipments are now beef tomatoes.

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MP gets top job in football

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In the second round, from which Mr. Clay and Mr. Wiseman were eliminated, Mr. Dunnett won by 28 votes to Mr. Smith's 24.

A Special Correspondent writes: Mr. Brian Clough, the manager, was backing Mr. Dunnett's campaign to become league president.

Mr. Clough attended a recent regional meeting of league club chairmen and came away saying: "I have never been so impressed by anyone in football."

Mr. Dunnett's performance as chairman at that meeting left me speechless. His handling of things was magnificent and his knowledge of football impressed me very much. I listened carefully to everything he said and all I heard was good, sound commonsense."

Those who know Mr. Dunnett will realize that his election as president is significant. Unlike most of his predecessors, he will not content himself with being a figurehead. That is not the style of a man who has ruled North County, the world's oldest professional club, for 14 years. The club was in danger of extinction when he arrived at Meadow Lane.

On that occasion, and again, Mr. Dunnett won against public opinion in appointing Mr. Jimmy Shreeve, an unknown, as manager.

Twice in three years County were promoted and after reaching the second division paid off debts of £250,000 and ended losses of £1,000 a week. Next season they will play in the first division.

Mr. Dunnett is a determined, somewhat ruthless man. His club holds one board meeting a year and its annual meeting has never been known to last longer than 30 minutes.

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League meeting, page 22

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The Royal Wedding Silver Goblet

Designed by John Spencer Churchill, in conjunction with Robert Glover, silversmith

In Sterling Silver with 24ct Gold Plate

The Royal Wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer has quite naturally inspired many hundreds of designers and craftsmen to create a wealth of collectors' items to record this great event.

Perhaps the most unique and distinguished of those inspired by this exciting forthcoming Royal Marriage is the eminent designer and painter, John Spencer Churchill, (Society of Mural Painters), a distant cousin of Lady Diana and nephew of Sir Winston Churchill. His use of simple and clean lines of design have given to this silver goblet a dignity and a sense of occasion, resulting in a very special and most beautiful collectors' piece.

Though subtle, the design portrays all the information necessary to make the goblet a historic work of art. Surrounding the highly polished silver base is hand-engraved, "H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, 29th July 1981, Lady Diana Spencer" to join the base.

and the silver goblet bowl is an ingenious stem made with the three Prince of Wales Feathers extending up from the Welsh Crown, and seated neatly onto the feathers is the perfectly proportioned silver goblet. The result is a stunning piece of silver further enhanced by the contrast of gold on silver, for the stem and the goblet bowl are heavily plated with 24ct gold.

To enhance the value of this magnificent collectors' investment piece, each goblet is half-marked with the London Assay Marks in the traditional staggered pattern around the goblet body. Only 700 goblets will ever be made, and each goblet will be numbered and accompanied by a Certificate of Registration headed with the Spencer Crest and the Churchill Crest, and personally signed by John Spencer Churchill.

TECHNICAL DETAILS
HEIGHT: 6" WEIGHT: 1.5 lbs
COST: Sterling Silver £217.50 24ct Gold £800
ESTIMATED TOTAL PRICE: £1,017.50
20 SOLD FOR £600

22, CECILIA ROAD, LONDON SW4 7EL Tel: 0723 3189.

COMMEMORATIVE GOBLET BY CREDIT CARD

Please charge £ to my Account Barclaycard/American Express/Diners Club No.

NAME ADDRESS

SIGNED DATE

To The St. James's House Company, 21 Macclesfield Road, London SW4 0QE
Please accept my application for the Royal Wedding Goblet(s) in sterling silver at £217.50 each.
(or) Royal Wedding Goblet(s) in 24ct gold at £1,017.50 each.
Prices include VAT, delivery and presentation case.
I enclose my cheque for £ in full payment.
I enclose my credit card account The St. James's House Company. Allow 6 weeks delivery.

The St. James's House Company
Co Reg in England 1411283 VAT Reg No. 248 994 46

LIVERPOOL PORT SHUT BY STRIKE

From Our Correspondent

Liverpool

Nineteen ocean-going ships and three coasters were stuck in the Port of Liverpool yesterday because of a strike which was regretted by both union and employer.

A total of 3,500 dockers were idle, and because gangs who should have been allocated yesterday could not be called, the stoppage will have closed the docks for 72 hours until 8 am on Monday.

It was the second 24-hour strike by 3,500 dockers in eight days over a pay claim. But both the Liverpool Port Employers' Association and the Transport and General Workers' Union said that yesterday's strike should not be called by the dockers' shop stewards knew an improved offer had been made.

Mr. Denis Kelly, the chairman of the Mersey shop stewards' committee, said it had been too late to call off the strike.

The new pay offer will be considered by the shop stewards in Liverpool on Monday.

Britain lags in baby test

By Nicholas Timmins

Britain is lagging far behind other European countries in screening newly born children for thyroid deficiency, a condition that leads to about 150 children a year being mentally retarded permanently, it was said yesterday.

In Northern Ireland all children have been screened for the past 18 months, with nine cases detected, all of which have been treated. Wales has the programme funded by the Welsh Office that should enable all children to be screened by the end of this year. A programme is being developed in Scotland.

In England, however, despite recommendations four years ago to the Department of Health and Social Security that a centrally funded programme should be set up, screening programmes have only been developed piecemeal.

Dr. Michael Walsh, director of the regional genetic screening unit for East Anglia at Peterborough general hospital, said yesterday: "We have been most distasteful in this matter. There are 50 regional centres in Europe screening for this condition."

Police sergeant cleared in corruption case

From Our Correspondent, Nottingham

Police Sergeant Brian Crowston was cleared of a corruption charge at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday after the prosecution said it would offer no further evidence. He was acquitted after Mr. Justice Webster directed the jury to return a formal not guilty verdict.

The move came at the end of the prosecution's case on the fourth day of the trial. Mr. Desmond Fennell QC, for the prosecution, said he was unable to offer further evidence after the judge's ruling on a point of law.

Sergeant Crowston, aged 38, of Nottingham Road, Keyworth, Nottinghamshire, had pleaded not guilty to corruptly accepting money from Ladbroke's for providing information from the police national computer.

The jury had been told that Sergeant Crowston supplied names and addresses of wealthy people at 50p a time by feeding lists of car numbers through the computer. Ladbroke's wanted the identities so that they could lure the people into the shop.

Mr. Fennell described it as a classic case of corruption, but

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Front seat ban on children rejected by Government

By Peter Waymark, Motoring Correspondent

The Government has decided not to follow other European countries and ban children from the front seats of cars, despite doubts about the effectiveness of adult seat belts.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, said in a written Commons answer yesterday that children were better protected in accidents if they were restrained, even by belts not specially designed for them.

He said that view had not been altered by the results of recent tests which suggested that children wearing adult seat belts could be seriously injured. But he agreed that the best solution was provided by properly designed child restraints.

The tests, commissioned by The Sunday Times and carried out by the British Standards Institution, used dummies to represent children aged three and ten. In some cases, the dummies were thrown against the belt or slipped under it, in ways which would apparently have caused chest, stomach or neck injuries.

Mr Fowler said: "If such results were repeated in real life, parents would have serious reservations about using adult belts for children of this age."

But he questioned whether the dummies were representa-

tive of the average child and said evidence from other countries did not suggest that risk of injury from the belt itself outweighed any protection it might offer.

My conclusion is that an adult belt gives a significant measure of protection to young children and that it would not be right to ban them from the front seats of cars as long as they are so protected", Mr Fowler said.

A clause in the Transport Bill now before Parliament seeks to make it illegal for children between the ages of one and 14 to travel in the front seat unless they are wearing seat belts or child restraints. Babies under one year must travel in the back.

The Government will have powers to define by regulation what types of seat belts and child restraints will be acceptable.

Mr Fowler said the ideal was a restraint appropriate to the characteristics of a particular child. That could not be achieved by legislation but he would be issuing guidance to parents.

The Government expects an attempt in the House of Lords next week to make the wearing of seat belts compulsory to

succeed (Our Political Staff writes).

It is allowing a free vote on an amendment tabled for the committee stage of the Transport Bill by Lord Nugent of Guildford, the Conservative peer, who was a junior transport minister in the late 1950s.

If the amendment, making it an offence for drivers and passengers not to wear seat belts, is passed by the Lords, the Commons will then have to take a decision on it.

The Bill was under the guillotine when it reached its Commons report stage and it was easy for opponents of seat belts to prevent an amendment similar to Lord Nugent's being reached.

The crucial amendment will be reached either late on Monday or when the committee stage is resumed on Thursday.

Lord Baldwin, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, will put the arguments for and against on behalf of the Government and maintain a neutral stance.

The amendment would allow exemptions to the wearing of seat belts for people using delivery vehicles and those excused on medical grounds. Drivers would not have to wear belts when reversing.



Captive audience: Mr David Brewster, of the Broads Authority, taking weed samples from a dyke under the close scrutiny of cattle.

Compromise over plan to drain Broadland marshes

The Broads Authority met in Norwich yesterday and decided to compromise over a plan to drain nearly 6,000 acres of grazing marshes at Halvergate on the Norfolk Broads so they can be used for arable farming (Our Norwich Correspondent writes).

Conservationists fiercely oppose the plan, claiming it will destroy the largest stretch of classic Broadland landscape and will also drive out wildlife.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and the Countryside Commission have called on the Ministry of Agriculture,

Fisheries and Food to hold a public inquiry into the project. Mr Robin Grove White, the CPRE director, said the Internal Drainage Board had proposed the scheme to qualify for a £350,000 grant from the Ministry of Agriculture. That could mean the public paying for the destruction of one of the key landscapes of the Broadlands scheme.

The Broads Authority yesterday reaffirmed its opposition to the scheme unless legally binding safeguards to protect a quarter of the area—1,100 acres which are the most scientifically important—are left completely untouched. If the com-

promise is agreed, then the authority will not press its objections to the entire scheme.

A Broads Authority spokesman said it had proposed a £25,000 a year compensation scheme for landowners who decided to keep their land in its present state (A Staff Reporter writes).

It had also challenged the Countryside Commission to provide half that amount.

If the parties involved backed the board's proposals, then the board was prepared to lift its objections.

"We are a sister authority of

the National Parks", a spokesman said. "But the land values here are phenomenal, the economic opportunity is so much greater and compensation is so different. We have given a trifling sum of compensation as evidence of our good faith".

A spokesman for the Lower Bure, Halvergate Fleet and Acle Marshes Internal Drainage Board had no comment to make.

In London, the Ministry of Agriculture said when matters had been sorted out and some agreement reached a further statement would be made.

Leading article, page 15

The Ripper police chief is switched

By Arthur Osman

Mr George Oldfield, the West Yorkshire Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) who led the hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper for nearly five years, was moved sideways yesterday in a reshuffle of top posts.

It had been widely expected in the aftermath of the trial of Peter Sutcliffe and the continuing criticism of the performance of the police.

Mr Oldfield's new uniformed responsibilities in "operational support" will include police dogs, frogmen, the mounted section, traffic, criminal records and communications. He has been a detective officer for 30 years.

Mr Colin Sampson, Deputy Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, said it would be misleading to say that Mr Oldfield had been "sacked". He had been allocated less onerous duties because his health had suffered as a result of the long and arduous nature of the Ripper investigations.

Mr Oldfield, who is aged 57, suffered a heart attack and relinquished control of the Ripper inquiry in 1979.

The disastrous diversion of the inquiry over the matter of the bogus tapes and letters from a man with a Wearside accent was Mr Oldfield's decision, which had the support of Mr Ronald Gregory, his Chief Constable.

As recently as the end of April Mr Oldfield said, at a briefing for journalists at Wakefield, that there were certain things in the tapes and letters which to him had a particular significance. He was still not convinced that there was not a connection between them and Mr Sutcliffe, although he would say no more.

Yesterday Mr Oldfield was said to be on leave and his wife, Margaret, said he had no comment to make.

Old Vic on small screen

Dickens play for Channel 4 launch

By Kenneth Gosling, Arts Reporter

With the words, "as from today Channel Four is air-born", Mr Jeremy Isaacs, the independent channel's chief executive, yesterday announced its first important independent drama production: an eight-hour adaptation of the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Nicholas Nickleby*.

It will be shown in two four-hour instalments between November next year and Christmas. In the United States, it will be screened in four parts between December 20 and 23, 1982.

Yesterday's launch was at the Aldwych Theatre in London, where the play is still running; but it will be shot on videotape, with the original set, music, cast and costumes, at the Old Vic Theatre over eight weeks beginning on July 20.

Mr Isaacs was delighted that Channel Four will have the production available in time for the first few weeks of its own launch in the autumn of next year.

Channel Four will bear a substantial proportion of the cost, said to be between £1m and £2m.

Big structural changes in BBC and independent television are likely over the next three to five years because of the upsurge in independent production brought about by the coming fourth television channel.

That prediction has been made by Mr Michael Peacock, a former head of London Weekend Television, BBC 1 and BBC 2.

He is supported in his view by Mr John Gau, head of BBC Television current affairs programmes, who recently announced he was resigning to go into independent production after 18 years with the corporation.

Mr Peacock, who runs Video

Arts Television and is chairman of the new independent Programme Producers' Association, said: "There are swarms in the wind that appear to indicate that people who may feel trapped or fed up or want to take a different course now at least see a way of convincing themselves that there is another way of earning a living."

Some, like Mr Gau and Mr Paul Ellis, who used to run *The Money Programme*, are coming from the BBC, others are employed in subsidiaries of independent companies or they are involved with making commercials or sponsored films.

Mr Gau, aged 41, who has been with the BBC for 18 years, said: "After the advent of independent television in 1956 and then BBC2 we are now entering, with Channel Four, probably the last great period of expansion in television and video generally."

If I read the signs aright these will be exciting and challenging times."



Mr John Gau: Exciting times for television

IN BRIEF

Twitchers spot river warbler

Many twitchers—bird watchers who travel hundreds of miles to record sightings of rare birds—invaded a riverbank at Rye, East Sussex, to see a river warbler, a tiny drab grey-brown bird.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said the warbler was mainly found in Eastern Europe. This is only the fifth sighting in the British Isles.

Second child dies

A man will appear in court at Abergella, Ceredigion, today in connection with the death of Andrew Madoc, aged two, of Colyn Bay, who died in hospital yesterday and his sister, Anne-Marie, aged four, who died on Thursday, from stab wounds.

Killer dogs destroyed

Eight Alsatian guard dogs that mauled to death Michel Francis, aged 12 months, in Harlesden, north London, on Thursday, were destroyed yesterday. An inquest opens on Tuesday.

Baby abandoned

A newborn girl was found abandoned on a footpath in Somerset, Somerset early yesterday. She was inside a plastic carrier bag, wrapped in a towel, and was well after hospital treatment for cold.

£1m for wildlife

More than £500,000 has been received by the World Wildlife Fund in response to special events to mark its twentieth anniversary last month.

'Radio Times' strike

No regional editions of *Radio Times* will be available next week because of a strike over a pay claim by journalists. Only a national edition will be published.

Jardine accused

Mr James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, is to be prosecuted by the City of London police on a charge of careless driving after an accident in Cheltenham last January.

Pope for Gatwick

The Pope who is due to visit Britain next May is expected to fly to Gatwick airport because security arrangements there are more suitable than at Heathrow.

Oxford democrats

The motion, "This House would support the Social Democrats" was carried in the Oxford Union by 286 votes to 229 early yesterday.

Anti-Trident lobby attacked by Nott

By Philip Webster, Political Staff

Arguments that the Trident missile project would emasculate Britain's defence effort in other spheres and lead to a weakening of the country's defence capability were nonsense, Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, said yesterday.

In a staunch defence of the project, Mr Nott said that it had caused difficulties to the defence budget and caused his present review of defence expenditure. He said that the opposition to Trident on cost grounds was thin.

He estimated the cost of Trident at about £5,000m, at September, 1980, prices. The expenditure would be spread over 15 years, taking on average only 3 per cent of the defence budget and 6 per cent of the equipment budget.

Polaris took up about 1.5 per cent of the budget and Trident, when it was in service, would take about the same.

Speaking in Nottingham, Mr Nott said that the Trident nuclear cruise programme would cost twice as much as Trident. The British Army of the Rhine this year alone would cost £1.3b, much more than Trident would ever cost even in the most expensive years of build-up.

Mr Nott added: "We are in the peace business and not in the war business. When it comes to preserving peace nothing comes cheaper than the Trident system."

Ministers attending Monday's meeting at the Cabinet Overseas and Defence Committee will be given considerable scope in determining the shape of the

Wadham escapes prosecution

From Our Correspondent Oxford

Two Oxford colleges accused of planning violations concerning an historic library and an ancient meadow have been told that no action will be taken.

Wadham College will not be prosecuted for removing the interior of its eighteenth century library to make way for a common room to be used by fellows. And Magdalen College will not have to fill in an 8ft deep moat: it had dug to keep trespassers out.

The dispute at Wadham College began when Oxford City Council discovered the library interior had been removed without planning permission. It eventually approved the conversion scheme and the Department of the Environment has decided not to prosecute the college.

Magdalen College had a moat dug to stop people using a shortcut to reach its grounds. It wanted sightseers to use the main entrance.

Soper court plea for churchman

Lord Soper of Kingsbury, former president of the Methodist Conference, told a court yesterday that a Methodist minister's acts of gross indecency with another man in a public lavatory might eventually "enrich his ministry".

The Rev Paul Flowers, who pleaded guilty to the charge, was fined £75, with £35 costs by Fareham magistrates in Hampshire.

Speaking on behalf of Mr Flowers, Lord Soper said: "If out of this experience he becomes a more understanding person, there are many he might help because they suffer similar problems."

Mr Flowers, of Hedge End, Hampshire, a leading member of Hampshire and Eastleigh Labour Party, was said to be deeply embarrassed and ashamed.

Mr Alexander Leyton, for the defence, said Mr Flowers had been under pressure at the time, and had been in the process of moving to another ministry.

Sick pay tax postponed

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Government has bowed to pressure and agreed to postpone the taxation of existing insurance-based sick pay schemes for a year. But new schemes or amended ones will become taxable from April, 1982, as planned.

Payments to an estimated one million employees will become taxable from April, 1983, when the proposed scheme to transfer responsibility for insurance sickness benefit from the state to employers is due to start.

The concession was made in standing committee of the Finance Bill by Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary at the Treasury.

Late holidays may cost more

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Late summer season package holidaymakers and those planning winter holidays could face surcharges on brochure prices of 4 per cent on North American holidays.

That estimate came yesterday from Thomson Holidays, Britain's largest package holiday operators, as tourists bound on earlier holidays were estimating the effect of sterling's decline in value against the dollar.

Most holidaymakers who have received their final bills will see no increases. In most cases that means holidays up to at least the middle of August will not be further affected although the final bills are likely to have included some surcharges, mainly covering extra airline fuel costs.

Where final bills have not gone out most tour operators have price promises which usually limit surcharges to around 10 per cent. But a number of

factors are expected to keep surcharges below the estimated 4 per cent.

Hotel charges account for about 40 per cent of a total cost on North American holidays and the rest is attributable to the air travel, where the key factor is fuel cost which is transacted in dollars. A proportion of hotel charges will already have been paid.

The fuel element will carry the full effect of sterling's decline but now stable oil prices at least hold out the prospect of no basic price increases on airline fuel.

But what could keep surcharges down or even wipe them out on late summer holidays is the overcapacity on the North American routes.

Stack bookings led to a rash of discount offers from many tour operators a few weeks ago and the bookings pattern has

now revived, says Thomas Cook, the travel agency chain.

What is worrying tour operators is that normally within the next few weeks they would be deciding the currency value basis for next summer's brochures. If sterling remains at its present level against the dollar, or declines further, it could face operators with a currency change of about 20 per cent compared with the basis for this summer's holidays.

There are offsetting factors such as more favourable hotel rates in North America, according to Thomson Holidays. Nevertheless, it could mean the end to the spectacular growth in the number of Britons switching from continental to North American holidays. Spain has reassessed itself this year as a key holiday destination.

The only surcharges in prospect on later continental holidays so far are small ones.

Companies win High Court battle over casinos

Loribo and Grand Metropolitan won a battle in the High Court yesterday which may bring them a step closer to reopening two gambling casinos in Mayfair, London, closed because of illegal activities.

Lord Justice Griffiths and Mr Justice May, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division, quashed decisions of the Knightsbridge Crown Court upholding the cancellation of gaming licences for the International Sporting Club and the Palm Beach Club, after police raids uncovered breaches of Gaming Act regulations.

The two companies can now ask for a rehearing of their Crown Court appeals. The judges ordered that any new appeals should be heard by a different judge sitting with a different panel of licensing justices.

Lord Justice Griffiths said it would not be right to deny the companies a rehearing in all the circumstances.

for, somewhat reluctantly, because we do not look upon these applicants as Good Samaritans coming to the rescue of the gaming public as at one stage in the argument, we were invited to do, but because everyone, including gaming companies, is entitled to fair treatment under the law, we allow the appeals.

When the licences were cancelled both clubs were controlled by the Coral Leisure Group.

He said the evidence before South Westminster Licensing Justices to cancel the licences revealed a "whole catalogue of wrongdoing" by the licence holders at the trial. Before the Crown Court appeal Grand Metropolitan took over the Palm Beach and Loribo gained control of the International Sporting Club.

Loribo and Grand Metropolitan were awarded costs of the High Court hearing.

Manchester Labour group wants curbs on police

From Our Correspondent, Manchester

Greater Manchester's new Labour-controlled police committee wants powers to tighten political control of the county's police force.

At its first meeting since Labour took control in the May election, the police committee called on the Association of Metropolitan Authorities (AMA) to press for a three-point plan to bring police forces under closer supervision.

The plan would remove magistrates from police committees so that all members are elected representatives; define more adequately the strategic responsibility of the police authority for policing its area so as to make the chief constable more answerable; and give police committees the right to appoint not only the chief constable, his deputy and assistants, but all chief superintendents as well.

When Mr Peter Kelly, new chairman, a trade union

£33,000 winner's low fine

Herbert Bernard, a pools player who won £33,000 in the pools, was fined £100 for betting without state aid and lived off family donations, said outside the court yesterday that he had kept quiet about his £33,000 win because of a strike over a pay claim by journalists. "I did not see why I should have told them", he said.

M Bernard, aged 60, of Baby Street, Wolverhampton, pleaded guilty before magistrates in Wolverhampton to being drunk and disorderly at The Royal Hospital a day after his pools win.

Mr Quentin Ford, for the prosecution, said that Mr Bernard was arrested after he refused to leave the hospital where his wife was receiving treatment. He was abusive and ordered the nurses attending his wife to leave her alone.

Mr Bernard, who was fined £15 with £25 costs, told the court, without giving evidence on oath, that he was out of work and not receiving state benefits. He was allowed to pay off the money at £2 a week.

But outside the court a smiling Mr Bernard said: "My money is safe in the bank. I intend to buy a house and go on holiday. If I had told the magistrates about it, they might have given me a bigger fine."

ASKEY'S TOUCH OF THE SUN

Arthur Askey, the comedian, celebrates his 51st birthday today. Doctors at London's Hammersmith Hospital, where he was admitted on Thursday, have diagnosed a skin complaint with the same symptoms as sunstroke. He had recently returned from a holiday in Cyprus.

A hospital spokesman said Mr Askey's condition was satisfactory but that he was likely to remain in hospital for a few days.

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A burglary every two minutes
Every two minutes a home in Britain is broken into. Around £200,000 worth of property is damaged or stolen from homes.

Over half a million people a year suffer the trauma of burglary. Worse still in 3 burglaries involves violence.

Vandalism—the chilling facts
Robbery isn't the only motive. Sheer vandalism is often the problem—wanton destruction of your most treasured possessions. Crimes of this nature have increased ten times in as many years.

It doesn't matter how little you have that's worth stealing—3 in 4 homes will be burgled or vandalised sometime.

Fire can strike anytime
Fire can strike when you least expect it... every year fires in the home claim nearly 1000 lives. Thousands more suffer from the effects of flame and smoke. 50,000 homes are annually damaged by fire.

You need to take positive action now to protect yourself, your family and your home against thieves, vandals and fire. You'll never forgive yourself if you don't.

By David Spanier, Diplomatic Correspondent

Doubts have been growing:

It could, however, be a very serious meeting, and depending on progress in the coming months, perhaps be a chance to seek endorsement from the Arabs, including the PLO, of the aims of the Venice declara-

Lord Carrington sees the European effort to bring the sides together in the Middle East as the most important external issue of his presidency, and is determined to make the



watched from a nearby park. They are claiming that the Midway carries nuclear weapons in defiance of Japanese regulations. The United States Government has declined to comment on the allegations, originally made by former senior American Government officials. Japan has denied any knowledge of the existence of nuclear weapons on board American ships either in Japanese ports or territorial waters. The Midway's 75 assorted fighter-bombers are

all capable of carrying nuclear weapons. More than 7,000 demonstrators protested on Thursday night against the arrival of the ship and several smaller demonstrations were staged yesterday. The protests are continuing today with the Socialist Party, the country's leading opposition group in Parliament, expecting 100,000 people to attend a rally in nearby Tokyo. Right-wing extremists also flooded into Yokosuka.

From Christopher Walker, Ofica. June 5

Editor's dismissal newspaper's fire

ssal came 'in
nest hour'

From Robert Fisk
Beirut June 5

He finally became the PLO's representative in Brussels and member of the Palestine National Council, the PLO's parliament.

From Desso Trevisan, Warsaw, June 5

decisions of the party clearly an invitation to action from the direction of the party. It is also intended to inform the members of the Katoen as truly disciplined.

Message that is being sent to the members of the party is that they are being asked to support the party in helping the state.

From Our Correspondents

They were struggling to ensure that nobody would be without work and to defend the vital interests of the worst-off sections of the population in town and village.

From Peter Nichols, Rome, June 5

attelli said Signor
an evil genius who
performed great
Freemasonry if he
the rules. He had
led in 1976 and last
Masonic court be-
investigation into his
had been halted
had been overaken

From Patricia Clough

From Our Correspondent
Colombo, June 5

air show

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, June 5

His Foreign Minister, Señor José Pedro Pérez Llorca, is a strong advocate of early entry, and the 15 member nations have no objections to Spain's joining, according to a recent remark by Dr Joseph Luns, the Secre-

The Centre Democratic Union, however, is confident that it can win parliamentary approval for Nato membership. Although the government party does not have an absolute majority in the Congress of Deputies, it has the support

general election

steyn Commission, which is investigating the press, would propose a register of journalists, under the pretext of professionalizing journalism. This would be a fundamental blow to the already limited rights of free speech, he said.

In accordance with the conditions of use defined in the Cardmember Agreement, the American Express Company (Card Division) gives notice that from 1st May, 1981, the following changes to the Cardmember Agreement take effect for Cardmembers billed in Pounds Sterling:

When the ambulance bringing Saikh Khalifa to the American University Hospital arrived at the emergency clinic, the gun

From Arthur Reed, Air Correspondent, Paris, June 5

The 146 is powered by two turbo-propellers, each with 2,000 hp. The aircraft is made in the United Kingdom, and it is assembled at Harlow, Essex.

From Michael Hornsby

Mr Keskin told the meeting at the military junta in Ankara planned to create a constituent assembly later this year to draw up a new constitution. But he did not commit the Government to any timetable for restoring democracy.

Montgomery's first great test was Dunkirk and it was his

rd of a million troops were
r to death or capture
n has been believed. A
itary thrust into France,
her than withdrawal' to
coast, was about to be
ried out and was aban-

American Express Company, incorporated with limited liability in the U.S.A. H.R. Freytag, Resident Vice President - United Kingdom and Ireland.

Americans trying to coax Pretoria into Namibia deal

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, June 5

The State Department announced today that Mr William Clark, the Deputy Secretary of State, is to visit southern Africa next week to explore ways of finding an internationally acceptable agreement on Namibian independence.

The announcement came at the end of a week in which American newspapers have been carrying lengthy reports dealing with leaked State Department documents which contain details of the Reagan Administration's embryonic policy towards southern Africa.

The leaks, which are now the subject of a State Department investigation, have been angrily condemned as "stupid and appalling" by Mr Arthur Haig, the Secretary of State.

Mr Haig, however, has caused embarrassment among American policy makers who are just beginning to formulate a coherent policy towards southern Africa.

The reason for the leaks is obvious. The Administration's opponents believe the United States is tilting too far towards South Africa at the expense of black Africa. The documents, which include position papers dealing with last month's visit to Washington by Mr R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, would seem to confirm this trend.

Among the main points to emerge from the documents are: First, the Administration intends to pay less attention to the race issue in South Africa and will place more emphasis on a potential South African role as a defender of Western interests in Africa. One of the documents talks about ending South Africa's "poor status" and encouraging the Pretoria Government to "return to a place within the regional framework of Western security interests".

Second, the Administration believes South Africa genuinely wants an internally-recognized settlement in Namibia (South-West Africa) and that there is now a real possibility of moving ahead with negotiations with the discredited South African Government to "return to a place within the regional framework of Western security interests".

Third, a settlement in Namibia is being implicitly tied to a withdrawal of 20,000 Cuban troops in neighbouring Angola. The Americans also want the leftist Government in Luanda to come to terms with Dr Jonas Savimbi, leader of the Unita movement, which is fighting a guerrilla war against the Angolan Government.

However, as with all leaked documents they do not tell the whole story. State Department officials, while tacitly confirming that the documents are genuine, say that others are out of date and some were prepared by junior officials for discussion purposes.

Senior officials openly admit that the United States is trying to improve its relations with South Africa in the belief that the carrot is more effective than the stick in dealing with Pretoria. This policy is known as constructive engagement and is designed to encourage the South African Government to continue what the Americans believe to be a genuine (if over-cautious) policy of racial reform, that South Africa should be coaxed rather than threatened into cooperation.

"We share the South African's belief about the nature of the Soviet threat in southern Africa," a senior official said.

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Troops aid search of Coloured suburbs

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, June 5

Hundreds of troops were made today when police, reinforced by troops, cordoned off a suburb and searched for people suspected of involvement in two days of racial disturbances.

It was the first time that the Army, which usually comprises conscripts, was called in to make a direct part in quelling a racial disturbance. A job normally left to the police.

The riots in the coloured suburbs of Johannesburg, barely two miles from the city centre, clearly have the authorities concerned. Last night, a sniper shot at a car driven by a white as he drove through the area and a petrol bomb attack was made on a shop in the adjoining white areas of Westdene.

Black riots in Soweto, home of more than one million people, have been contained because the township is in an isolated area 10 miles outside Johannesburg. The coloured districts of Newclare, Westbury and Coronationville form part of Johannesburg's urban sprawl where Coloureds live in many cases next to poor whites despite apartheid laws.

A Defence Force official said today the force would be willing to assist the police. But there are bound to be serious objections over what seems in many quarters as Army involvement in a political situation.

Brigadier Gert Kruger, divisional commander of police for the Witwatersrand, said today the house to house search in the Coloured areas was part of "an in-depth investigation to try to get to the root of the recent trouble and to attempt to identify ringleaders".

The search today was intensive and Coloureds said the police tipped over beds, searched cupboards and even the boots and bottoms of cars. The police have given no indication about what they are looking for.

A delegation of the South African Council of Churches led by the Rev Peter Storey, its president, arrived in the Coloured suburb and demanded from Brigadier Thoma Swaneepoel, in command of the riot police, an explanation for the search.

He said: "We are looking for certain people who are the leaders of these disturbances and that we have reason to believe are hiding in here."

Other modifications are also being considered such as the scrapping of a planned United Nations force to supervise a ceasefire in the bush war between South Africa and nationalist South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) guerrillas and replacing it by a more Western-oriented multinational peace-keeping force.

The proposed watering down of the United Nations plan has drawn predictable criticism from Mr Sam Nujoma, SWAPO's president, and other black African leaders. It is also causing some concern among members of the contact group, notably France whose new socialist Government is expected to oppose any significant deviation from its aim to accommodate the South Africans.

The Americans believe South Africa could be more easily coaxed into accepting a settlement (in which SWAPO would be likely to emerge as the first Government of an independent Namibia) if the Cubans were pulled out of Angola and if the pro-Western Mr Savimbi were brought into the Luanda Government.

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Teamsters' hard men ride down the opposition

From Iver Davis, Las Vegas, June 5

Watching the powerful Teamsters transport union in action this week provided a remarkable spectacle in this desert city.

Las Vegas is an appropriate setting for the union's annual convention. Teamsters pension fund money has made the gambling city what it is. Many of the famous casino hotels—front Caesar's Palace to Circus Circus—have enjoyed a boom thanks to generous loans from the fund.

"I like to come here and visit my money," a teamster said as delegates roamed the city in multi-coloured limousines and T-shirts emblazoned "I love Teamsters".

Not everybody loves the Teamsters, however, even within their own ranks. In past years conventions have gone like clockwork, but this week

the rebel Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU) proved to be a Nevada senator to defer a bill to deregulate road transport.

Allegations of corruption and undemocratic methods in the Teamsters had little effect, however, on the delegates' choice of Mr Roy Lee Williams, who won the presidency after his opposition withdrew in the face of heavy support for him.

The triumph of Mr Williams, aged 66, came as no surprise. An old Teamster member, he was made interim president after Mr Frank Fitzsimmons, the president, died last month.

Delegates also gave Mr Williams a big pay rise, taking his salary from \$125,000 (about £62,500) to \$225,000 a year, with a bonus of \$25,000.

His accession comes after a Chicago grand jury last month indicted him and four asso-

ciates on charges of conspiring to bribe a Nevada senator to defer a bill to deregulate road transport.

A Senate investigations committee also released a report alleging that Mr Williams had close ties with organized crime, and was under the complete domination of Kansas City criminals.

Mr Williams said the conspiracy charge was "a damn lie" as delegates cheered him. Of the Senate report he said: "It is so wrong and false, I don't intend to dignify it with a response at this time."

The Teamsters are relatively unscarred, despite having been prosecuted for 30 years for corruption and alliances with organized crime. Such allegations no longer appear to be regarded as a handicap and have become an integral part of the curricula

vitae of Teamsters considering high office.

The three Teamsters presidents were indicted on federal charges, though only Mr Jimmy Hoffa and his predecessor, Mr Dave Beck, were convicted. Mr Hoffa, pardoned by President Nixon after serving a prison term, disappeared in 1975 and is believed to have been murdered.

The Teamsters have always had an ear in high places: Mr Fitzsimmons played golf with Mr Nixon and when the convention began this week delegates cheered a filmed message from President Reagan, who said he would team with the Teamsters to improve the country's economy.

Outside the convention centre TDU pickets marched with placards reading "Don't gamble with our pension funds".

A new deal for the 80s? The TRU, who admit that their support is small—8,000 members—say they represent the average Teamster. Their goal is to make the union more democratic.

Mr Jackie Presser, the Teamsters' communications director, called the dissidents "an ever-changing cast of union drop-outs, college students, aimless transients, and elite-group zealots".

A delegate said: "TDU should stand for too dumb to understand."

When the rebel group tried to debate an issue a union executive said: "These windbags are getting up and talking but they are saying nothing. I tell you, vote the goddam thing down". When it was all over the official Teamsters inevitably had their way.

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Reagan and Bush: President Reagan leaning over the shoulder of the Treasury Secretary, Mr Donald Regan, after announcing that a coalition of Republicans and maverick Democrats had agreed to cut personal taxes by 25 per cent over three years.

Cheysson to reassure Washington

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, June 5

M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, today became the first member of President Mitterrand's Government to meet President Reagan at the White House.

After two hours of talks with Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, yesterday and meetings with other Ad-

ministration and congressional leaders this morning, M Cheysson was expected to reiterate to Mr Reagan his Government's determination that France should continue to play a leading role in the Western Alliance.

"We are close allies with the United States and have been for many years," M Cheysson told reporters after yesterday's first round of talks.

On another note of reassurance, he promised that the new French Government's rules would be "international cooperation, open economy and full respect for our commitments".

There were divergences between the two parties, particularly on international questions, he said in a television interview. The electorate had got to decide between the two in the forthcoming elections.

"The Communists, like other members of the majority of the left, want to be represented in the Government," he said, but it is for the French people to decide and I cannot, as their Prime Minister, anticipate their decision."

While M Mauroy was speaking on television, M Georges Marchais, the Communist Party leader, was addressing 40,000 supporters in the Parc des Princes, telling them that Communist ministers were necessary in a government of the left and the whole country expected

There were, however, a significant number of empty seats in the big stadium. It was at best three-quarters full despite a long publicity campaign for the rally in Paris.

In his speech, M Marchais admitted that everything that had been done by the party during the presidential campaign had not been without fault. The lessons of that experience now had to be learnt.

There had to be a massive Communist turn out in the elections, he said.

If the opinion polls are right, however, M Marchais is now easily the least popular of all the leaders of the left and Communist support remains at its lowest ebb since before the Second World War.

A Sofres poll in Le Figaro magazine shows that 74 per cent of the population now have confidence in President Mitterrand and 71 per cent have confidence in M Mauroy as Prime Minister. M Marchais is popular with only 29 per cent of those polled.

The same poll shows that Mme Simone Veil, the president of the European Parliament, is as she has been for so long, the most popular politician of the French right. Even though losing seven points since the last poll in April, she scores 39 per cent, which puts her two points ahead of M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, and six points ahead of M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former President.

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Leading article, page 15

Leading article, page 15

Hanoi threatens Thais with punitive raids

From David Watts, Bangkok, June 5

Vietnam indicated to Thailand today that if more Cambodian refugees are repatriated without prior agreement Hanoi would again mount a cross-border attack.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is at present in the process of negotiating an agreement to send back some 10,000 refugees from the refugee camps inside Thailand.

Last June, two Vietnamese battalions struck across the border into a refugee camp and attacked the land bridge through which food and other necessities were being channelled to needy Cambodians inside the country.

Only after two days of fighting and the use of Thai helicopter gunships were the Vietnamese forces pushed back into Cambodia. Similar warnings from Hanoi preceded last year's attack.

At a press conference today after two days of talks in Rangoon with Mr Arun Phangphong, the Thai counterpart, Mr Vo Dong Giang, the Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister, said that there must be full agreement between Phnom Penh and Bangkok before the repatriation could take place.

Phnom Penh has claimed during the past few days that the repatriation plan is a scheme aimed at infiltrating "saboteurs" into the country to join anti-Government forces.

An estimated 17,000 refugees have gone back into Cambodia so far this year of their own volition.

Mr Giang said he had told Mr Arun in Rangoon that it would be "very dangerous" to carry out the repatriation under

the same circumstances as last year when, the Vietnamese claim, many of the refugees were either taken back across the border against their will or purely in order to join guerrillas fighting inside Cambodia.

The United Nations at that time screened all refugees wanting to go back to ensure that they were going voluntarily but undoubtedly a good proportion of them went back under duress from the Khmer Rouge.

The question of refugee repatriations has come up again as the Thais have told the UNHCR that they want to reduce the number of refugee camps in Thailand and have as many refugees go back as possible now that the situation has improved within the country.

"We absolutely do not want a repetition of the June 23 incident, when refugees were pushed back into Kampuchea without consulting the other side," Mr Giang said. He added that Mr Arun had told him there was no intention of doing that.

Mr Giang said the forces close to the Thai border were under the supreme command in Hanoi but "we can't tie the hands of our forces at the border". He was clearly indicating that local commanders were free to react to any situation and would have to justify their action to Hanoi.

Emphasizing that he hoped the border fighting of last year would not be repeated, he said that he had told Mr Arun that Vietnam did not want to add to Thailand's problems or take advantage of its difficult position.

He pointed out that Vietnam had caused no problems for Thailand during the April coup attempt.

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Saturday Review

Spring in Earl's Court

by Keith Waterhouse

Maggie didn't know where she was. That made it morning.

Even when legless, and she had been legless in her time, she always knew where she was going. But she didn't always know where she had been.

It would be a bed-sitter, unless it could prove otherwise. The curtain, no more than a rag really, of the kind of lime-green you get by mixing blue with yellow, certainly pointed that way. It hung from what might have been a broom-handle wedged lopsidedly into the window-frame. By borrowing a saw and taking — what? — an inch and a half off that makeshift curtain rod, someone could have made a really neat job of it. Neat but shabby would have suggested a proper home. Lopsided and shabby suggested a bed-sit.

It was possible, of course, to be both — a bed-sit that was a proper home, a proper home that was a bed-sit. Nothing to do with who owned the furniture, it was which person a stranger waking up in that room got the strongest sense of — the landlord or the tenant. Only the smallest touch, and one of them was there to the exclusion of the other. Take away the shelf of paperbacks and it was a bed-sit, add a potted plant and it was home.

Speaking as a bed-sit tenant herself, Maggie was not a big reader, and vegetation made her sneeze.

What she had thought was another friendly warning from her liver was not spots before the eyes after all, it was dust flecking the sunlight that penetrated the lime-green curtain where it had grown threadbare. That made it late morning, with people about, instead of that demolition-site air of time between dawn and the first newsgroup's shops opening. If Maggie ever killed herself — seriously killed herself, not just got "very wet" as on the night of "my drowning" — it would be in that two-hour vacuum between the last all-night bus and the first early-morning one.

Going not so much by the angle of the pencil-beams as by their brightness, she guessed it would be about half-past nine, Muggins Mean Time. Maggie didn't own a watch although several had passed through her hands. The only one she wished she'd kept was the little square one with the crocodile strap her Mum had given her for her twelfth birthday. She sold it for eleven quid in the French Pub, one morning, then got mugged, pissed on the money and felt a right bastard all next day. If she'd hung on to that watch she knew where she could have got forty for it.

Muggins Mean Time meant give or take, usually take, one circuit of the big hand starting and finishing at the hour. It was Maggie's appointments — the appointments she made herself, not those forced on her by people who sat behind desks — were for half-past. Half-past, she always thought, was far less committed, far easier-going, than the hour. The chiming numbers that got counted out by armour-suited figures whirling out of little doors with hammers; at the twelfth stroke, boyfriends standing under public clocks all over England shot back their cuffs, checked their watches and fumed. But those on-the-hour "dates" (yukky word) that you sew typists and shopgirls scurrying to keep were at least preferable to the ones green-linked in big diaries by the people who sat behind desks, who in their finicky, grapefruit-knife fashion divided the day into daisy quarter-hour segments and wanted you punctually in their waiting rooms at a quarter-to or a quarter-past.

Half-past nineish, then. So much for the clock, now who about the place? It did matter, for Maggie had to arrange her day. She didn't like to get up until she knew what she was getting up for.

Very definitely bed-sitterland. Wardrobe you could put to sea in, bedside kitchen chair flecked with whitewash, top-heavy chest of drawers, born to be second-hand, with soup-pan rings, burned into the polish. Chianti-bottle lamp on the floor, its flex tightly stretched across a jigsaw puzzle of bits of underfelt and offcuts from some other room's fitted carpet all curled at the edges like stale bread and butter, the fraying wires only just making it to the lopsided thirteen-amp socket in the

skirting of a hardboard wall. Maggie could tell it was hardboard without having to reach back and rap her knuckles on the scuffed patch of buff distemper above her pillow. A plaster frieze of melted icecream flowers dripped along the perimeter of the ceiling where it met three of the walls, but vanished where it met the fourth, the melted icecream blob of laurel leaves or whatever, that must have surrounded a central light-fitting at one time, had been unceremoniously scythed down the middle by the hardboard partition. Two rooms made but of one room. It was often so.

In fact it was always so, in Maggie's experience. She couldn't remember, in all her ten years in London, ever having been in a room, and most certainly she'd never lived in a room, that wasn't really half a room. Everywhere you went had been divided, chopped up, partitioned off, with all thin doors that you had to go through sideways, and T-shaped kitchenettes without any windows, and lavs where your elbows brushed the walls when you pulled your drawers up. The only wasted space was between the top of your head and the far-off ceiling with its loss of detail from some grand ballroom design of melted icecream grapes or melted icecream fleurs-de-lis, and that was only because the cowboy builders hadn't yet found a way of splitting rooms up horizontally as well as vertically.

It was like living in bloody Hongkong. Even the shops, or anyway the shops that Maggie used, had been sliced up and then vacuum-sealed. Like processed cheese, your average fair-sized grocer's having become a long thin laundrette, a long thin dry cleaner's, and a long thin mini-supermarket where the only way to squeeze between the checkout desk and the crates of long-life milk was to hold your carrier-bag of goodies at tit-level and breathe in. Even the police station where they'd taken her after her drowning, the room she'd been questioned in had been reclaimed with roughly cemented breezeblocks from the dead end of a wide corridor. Even the Social Services day centre she had to go to, which wasn't in a clapped-out building at all but in a new one, a cluster of Portakabins so you would have thought they could easily expand as the need arose, kept splitting itself up like a flaming amoeba.

Maggie really thought it was a bit much when the interview rooms in a sodding Portakabin had hardwood partitions down the middle. She had sat in one sliced-off compartment facing the woman who sat behind the desk, and at the other side of the hardboard with its poster of a pregnant woman, a woman behind another desk, and facing this one, to complete the mirror image, had been a West Indian woman by the sound of her in the other sliced-off compartment. Maggie had been able to hear every whining word about how her man came home Saturday from that Rainbow Club and give her "this" — bunch of fives, presumably — because he went to your leisure but not to commit him when he have too much rum. V. biblical. Maggie could still remember the juicier bits from her school scripture lessons. And Adam knew his wife, again; and she bare a son.

"What I'm urging you to do," the woman who sat behind the desk was saying (Maggie had christened her Miss Roberts, although she was a Mrs something-or-other in real life), is to take these leaflets and a copy of the adoption memorandum form home with you to go through at your leisure but not to commit yourself at this stage, because you've got all the time in the world."

"The usual nine months, actually," muttered Maggie, trying to give her own example to make the woman keep her voice down. But Miss Roberts evidently had a lot of customers who didn't hear very well. She could no longer open her mouth without sounding as if she were trying to get through to a deaf old-age pensioner.

"Much longer than that, my dear, because no one can stampede you into making any final decision until six months after the baby is born, whatever you may have signed in the meanwhile. Now what I'm saying is that you could very well be in a much

different frame of mind after you've seen your baby and held it."

Own fault, Mags. Before taking refuge in this broken-down borough, she really ought to have checked that they had a full-time adoption counsellor with a proper office — all right, half an office, damn — where you could sink in and out unseen. Miss Roberts doubled as one of a harassed scrum of social workers, so that Maggie had to take her turn with the tower-block depressives and other urban shellshock victims who daily streamed through the Portakabins. She could see herself being stared at, next visit, for if she could hear what was going on in the West Indian chick's cubicle, the West Indian chick could certainly hear what was going on in hers.

"Look, do you mind, this is my private business you're shouting from the rooftops," she wanted to protest. But she didn't want the West Indian chick and the duplicate Miss Roberts behind the other desk in the other side of the partition to hear her voice, which was her private property.

If Maggie ever had need of a passport, she hoped they would let her enter "Private person" as her profession.

So, then, the wardrobe that looked like a family tomb carved out of railway sleepers, the Junk City chest of drawers, the kitchen chair that had doubled as a painter's ladder: she certainly hadn't strayed out of her own social class last night, that was for sure. Not that that gave her much to go on. At one time if you were in bed-sitland, it usually meant Notting Hill, Paddington, Camden Town, no more than half a dozen West or North-West postal districts. These days it could be anywhere. Clapham for God's sake, she'd woken up in before now. She had even seen that wardrobe's twin brother as far out as Raynes Park. That was the only time she had ever gone home by Green Line bus — wearing, as she recalled, a borrowed black number with rather more cleavage than she had left, and the ritzy place with the royal-funeral-will that she'd found down the Portobello, on account of one of the faces she knocked around with had wangled an invite to the opening of another of those chrome-and-cocktail joints in Covent Garden. A right naff she'd tottered down the back aisle on her stilettos at half-eight in the morning, with all the punters squinting up from their cross-words to clock her purple finger-nails and fishnets. She must have looked like the touring version of Breakfast at Tiffany's.

The anonymous room gave no clue: could be anybody's ("Couldn't we all dear!" responded Maggie to herself in camp tones like Sean's). Anybody's, any place. Where? There were no traffic sounds, but what did that prove? You could be in the back doubles behind the Harrow Road and there would be no more noise than in the middle of Epping Forest. And vice versa: she'd been wearing those on whatever day it had been the day before yesterday. Maggie tried never to wear the same knickers two days running, although it didn't necessarily follow that the ones she'd changed into had been rinsed out.

She was trying to remember where she was and she didn't even know what bloody day of the week it was. God, she must have been the vodka a right going-over last night. Unexpectedly, like a shaft of sunlight in a cellar, his face flashed back into her mind. Sandy-haired, bugger, looked younger than he probably was, with the kind of crooked grin that didn't half fancy itself. Freelance journalist, so he claimed. (Oh, yes, Berwick Street market. Maggie liked to start her day either in the Half Moon itself or in the Leather Bottle opposite if for any reason she and the Half Moon were not on speaking terms.)

If it turned out that she was in somewhere like Streatham or the raty end of Wimbledon, and that melted icecream ceiling certainly did suggest one of the farther-flung Victorian suburbs, she could get herself together as leisure and make it to the Half Moon by opening time. Maybe waste a few minutes over a cup of coffee at the Nosh Bar first — it wouldn't do to be seen pacing up and down Half Moon Court like a Soho brass on the early trick while waiting for Sid the Squirrel to unlock the doors. But if she was in say Baron's Court, Kilburn,



Illustration by Michael Trevithick

North Ken, somewhere civilised, she could get back to Balmoral Gardens and do — well, things for an hour or so before going out again. She was always telling people she had things to do at home and the opportunity to do them didn't come up nearly often enough, not that it was possible to pin Maggie down on what things there were to be done. Certainly not lining drawers with newspaper or getting a pillowcase of laundry together. Lying on the bed smoking, the same as she was doing now, was about the only thing when it came down to it.

The truth was that Maggie just liked going back to her room and being there. Within reason. And not for long periods. Had she been home yesterday at any point? Well, take it in easy stages — was it home that she had set off from in the morning? That was the question. She'd been off her knickers, and located them half-in and half-out of the crumpled ball of lights on the floor near the window. Oh, those. Then she hadn't set off from home, because she'd definitely been wearing those on whatever day it had been the day before yesterday. Maggie tried never to wear the same knickers two days running, although it didn't necessarily follow that the ones she'd changed into had been rinsed out.

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came to bed in it, how practical. Still: bare bum and cablestitch, quite a turn-on for a certain class of face, and he'd probably needed one after what they must put away yesterday. Was that a love-bite or a flea-bite? Hard to say. And it wasn't what had taken place but where it had taken place that was the important thing. Think.

Try putting it together slowly. She had presumably started in the Half Moon. No she hadn't, the first piece was falling into place, for once in her life she had never even set off for the Half Moon. Sean. She had woken up on Sean's broken-down sofa, having introduced them: "This is Peter," and she'd said, "You introduce people and you don't even know their names. He's not Peter, he's Simon, anyone can see that" — because he looked, or she affected to believe that he looked, more like one of life's Simons than one of life's Peters. And after some joshing they compromised. He became Peter called Simon.

It was a game Maggie played, but only with those she didn't know very well. It gave her something to say when she first met people, and was about the size of it she supposed.

"Sorry, I see you definitely as a Malcolm." Bloody tiresome they must find it, some of them, though most got so much into the spirit of the thing that she usually wished she'd never started it.

Oh, and people she didn't like — Miss Roberts. Sid the Squirrel she did it to them too, without them knowing. Stuck labels on them. She never did it to mates, though. Not proper mates. Proper mates — Sean, Riggsy, one or two others — got their proper names. Proper mates, and proper bastards. Ken.

She fished in her bag for matches — the disposable lighter she'd picked up somewhere had flickered and died. Another bijou surprise: this time her fingers closed on the velvety texture of high-grade paper money. Two tenners. Twenty quid.

If Peter called piggish Simon had bunged her twenty quid for his night's entertainment, she would personally stuff it down his throat. The cheeky sod. She might be anybody's for a bag of crisps, but she wasn't on the game yet.

Not being on the game was an important moral demarcation line for Maggie. It was, she'd decided, her last frontier: cross it once and she might as well stagger off into the sunset with a mattress strapped to her back.

There had been several frontiers, or perhaps it was the same one that she'd kept on steadily pushing back and back. It had been a long slide from losing her virginity — losing it? She'd taken it for a walk in the woods and abandoned it — to being anybody's and perhaps she hadn't finished sliding yet. But she never did it for money, ever.

She found the matches and thought fleetingly about setting light to the two ten-pound notes, but that was against her principles too. Cheeky sod. Would it be possible, Maggie wondered, drawing angrily on her cigarette until sparks flew off it

wasn't Simon, it was Peter. Sean had introduced them: "This is Peter," and she'd said, "You introduce people and you don't even know their names. He's not Peter, he's Simon, anyone can see that" — because he looked, or she affected to believe that he looked, more like one of life's Simons than one of life's Peters. And after some joshing they compromised. He became Peter called Simon.

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(serve the bugger right if she set the bedclothes on fire), to get hold of twenty quid's worth of horse manure in sacks, and somehow hump it up to Peter called Simon's room and —

Sorry! Take it all back. There was so much light in the cellar it was dazzling.

Stowly now. Hagerty's. Sean. That Irish mate of his, the AC-DC one who fancied both of them. Had asked them both for a quid but wouldn't tell them why. "Will you trust me now? I'm asking you, you're both lovely people, will you trust me?" he kept on saying, and Sean gave him two quid for the pair of them and he took it off to the betting shop and came back with twenty-three quid apiece for Sean and Maggie and a roll of notes that thick for himself. He'd only backed, hadn't he, a Christ-knows-what-to-one outsider called Nimrod for no reason than that he and Sean had once won the jackpot in an afternoon drinking club of that name in Fulham Palace Road? So naturally, since it was chucking-out time by now, where else would they take a swift cab to but the Nimrod, where they drank themselves stupid on bottle after bottle of fizzy wine that Sean's Irish mate called poor man's champagne and Maggie called rich man's Andrews Liver Salts? And naturally, Sean's Irish mate thought he'd bought them both for the night (why the hell still got two crisp ten-pound notes left, don't say she hadn't bought a round all day, mean bitch?), which wouldn't have been her scene and wasn't Sean's either so far as she knew; so when they fell out of the Nimrod and into that big Victorian pub across the road, and ran into Peter called Simon, Maggie made it plain to Sean by their code of little nods and wincing that she could please herself but she was rowing herself out. So Sean wheeled his Irish mate off to one of those faggy pubs of his, and Peter called Simon took her to that Chinese throw-up where the lav was so filthy disgusting that she wouldn't use it, and he said there was always his place, but she was wetting herself so they went back to the pub and had a brandy and a pee, and then he charmed her up and bought a bottle of wine to go, and there it was on the yellow-painted mantelpiece over his boarded-up fireplace, unopened.

They must have been in kip before eleven o'clock. World record?

And then it really did go blank.

This extract is taken from *Maggie Muggins* by Keith Waterhouse, published by Michael Joseph, price £6.95.

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There is a Borges story which a Roman tribune covers Homer in the city

In the Koran there are no camels: In Borges's short stories, poems and essays he has not been restricted to national themes. He has taken all literature as his hunting ground, none more so than our own. "Ah, you are lucky to be going back to London," he told me in his Buenos Aires flat. The

reading. **A Dangerous Funera**, by Mary McMullen, is an American mid-stream offering, published there by Doubleday, the transatlantic equivalent of Collins Crime Club. It's lively

Live Bait, by Bill Knox, takes us in a single bound from sordid murder-with-mimsiness to tough old Glasgow and a police

shutters were down for a blind man needs no light. "A great city, a nation of a city as de Quincey said. I used to live in Kensington. my grandmother was English, you know.

which is another link with England, and," he exulted, "like my links with England. Such a wonderful language I have. Spanish is the language

Born again

Only One Way Up, by Kristin Gibbs (Darton, Longman, Todd, £3.95)

man. As Meredith said 'not till the fire is dying in the grate.' Look we for any kinship with the stars.' You remember Coleridge's habit of despair? Its a bad habit. One I've had for 81

years. When my mother died I had a suspension of disbelief, I miss people, but it's easier to recreate them when they're gone than when they go away. And

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outcome of which you need to know — but the style leads to a certain immobility as if the characters were puppets with no enduring identity of their

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Now for the Viking furniture invasion

Raping and pillaging is about to take place in the furniture trade. The Norwegians are out to prove that Scandinavian design is not all Danish teak and Swedish glass and are girding their loins to make a second Viking invasion — by container truck.

Having spent the first three days of this week in Norway as the guest of their Export Council I can tell you there are quite a few lions to gird — well over 200 furniture manufacturers employing 8,500 people. The standards of workmanship and materials are high, so perhaps it is just as well for our own struggling industry that only one or two companies are sufficiently well organised to market their products effectively.

Their methods are worth studying. Norway has a 14 per cent inflation rate and the standard of living is high — the average annual wage is £7,000 — so production costs cannot be low. And

though making upholstery against a backdrop of fjords and mountains may be soothing for the workers, it does not make for cheap transport.

But the more go-ahead companies, instead of moaning about the high cost of the kroner and the low productivity of the workers, are overcoming first their production problems by staggering their hours, second their transport difficulties by making as much as possible pack flat and third the international competition by concentrating on one distinctive material — limber.

The use of leather is partly in response to the home demand for robust, easy to clean furniture — Norwegian children are not noted for their discipline — and partly because the bottom has dropped out of the low-priced market so all manufacturers are concentrating on quality.

No doubt this is due, as in this

country, to high living costs which result in a demand for longer-lasting furniture, but it may also be that 53 per cent of Norwegian women are wage-earners, so joint family incomes are high and 20 per cent of the people have second holiday houses. The working day is from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm, which gives a lot of scope for part-time work; when the husband comes home he can look after the children while his wife does an evening shift until 8.

Eskornes, one of the largest furniture manufacturers, took advantage of this social pattern by introducing flexible hours five years ago — and their productivity has gone up by nearly a third. Their drive into the United Kingdom market began three years ago and already their turnover, at trade prices, is £1m. Managing director Jens Petter Eskornes expects to double that figure within two years.

His marketing methods include providing one million catalogues to retailers this year, help with local advertising on a 50-50 basis and, when they have achieved certain levels of sales, free in-store displays, fully accessorized as in a living room which, as more retailers should

realize, is the only effective way to sell furniture.

His catalogue includes several leather suites which come in the typical Norwegian groups of matching three-seater, two-seater and single chair from about £1,000, but one of his greatest successes in the world markets had been the Stressless reclining chair, originally made on a metal base and now on an even more handsome stained beech.

There is no ugly mechanism to mar the lines and the chair adjusts from upright to almost horizontal by a slight shifting of the body weight. It is so comfortable that, with the footstool, it could even be used to put up an overnight guest. It comes in seven shades of standard leather at £465 for the set and three shades of specially soft Battek leather at £490. For information on the range contact Eskornes, 1 Barrett Road, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Surrey (telephone Bookham 58150).

If other Norwegian companies are to do as well in the UK, which is regarded as a conservative market, they must learn from Eskornes and specialize. Westnora is the umbrella name for several manufacturers also making a determined thrust into Britain and they have two of their country's most brilliant designers — the young Peter Opsvik and Norway's eminence grise of furniture design, Ingmar Relling.

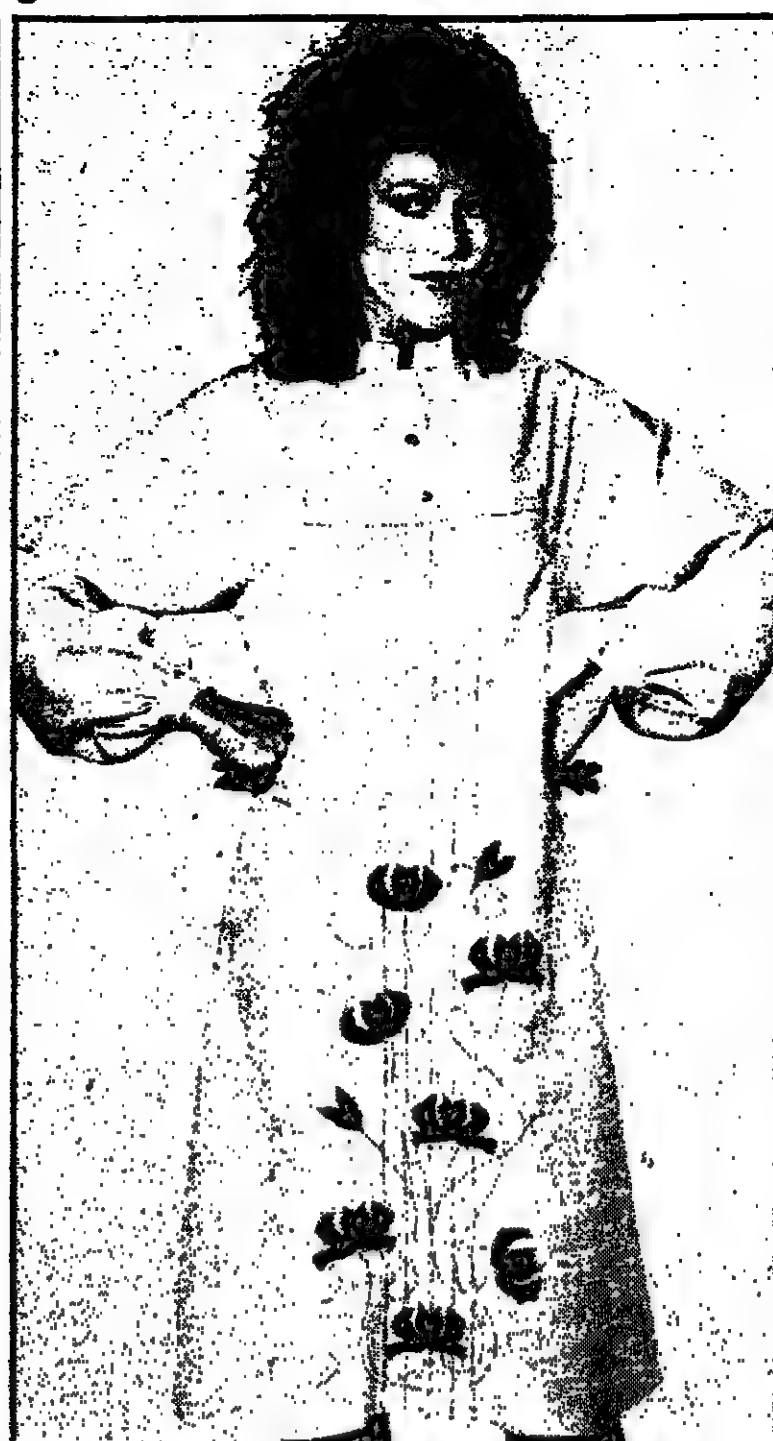
Peter Opsvik is the first Scandinavian designer to concentrate on ergonomics and all his work is now channelled into designs for the support of the spine — developments of the Balans chair, which holds the body upright in a semi-kneeling position (first reported on this page on February 7).

As I commented when I first tried the chair, the unusual shape is surprisingly supportive, but the height was limiting for office workers. An adjustable version is now being developed and will soon be available here. The chair has already been sold to hospitals in this country as it has been proved to help sufferers from back pain and as it comes in a flat, ready-to-assemble pack, it is easily mail ordered. More details and leaflets from The Back Chair Company, South Chalfont, Herts, East Sussex. 0273 400 720.

So much for practicality. But if style plus comfort is your criterion, you must look at the designs of Ingmar Relling. His Tjara chair, designed in 1967, has won several international awards and is among the classics of modern design now in the Victoria and Albert Museum. The latest version, Flex, in 12 colours of leather, is a folding style with similar lines and the high back version is one of the most comfortable of all the chairs I tested. You can try it at Alford House, 18 Verney Road, London, SE16. Ask for Jo Churchill, 01-639 8746.

If Norwegian manufacturers concentrate on the qualities which set them apart from the rest of Scandinavia — the combination of technical inventiveness, durability and comfort — there is undoubtedly a place for them in the market, for their prices are not excessive. Three-seater sofas are from about £395.

The rest of Scandinavia is rather condescending about Norway and there is a saying that furniture should be made by the Swedes, marketed by the Danes and sold to the Norwegians, whose oil-money makes them an easy target. I have a feeling that saying will rapidly be proved an old troll's tale.



Silken style: the secret is simplicity

As silk is this season's fashion favourite, those in search of something for a special occasion may like to look at the work of Kate Rumens, whose exhibition of embroidered and appliquéd silk dresses and separates opened at Living Art, 35 Kenway Road, London, SW5, this week.

She specializes in high quality silks — crepe de chine blouses, silk twill skirts, raw silk dresses. And while she enjoys designing what she describes as "airy fairy" carnival clothes (a navy shiny satin skirt appliquéd with ivory with an underskirt of caramel satin pleats, for instance) she also has an extremely successful range of simple shapes, beautifully embroidered, that can be made to order and sent anywhere.

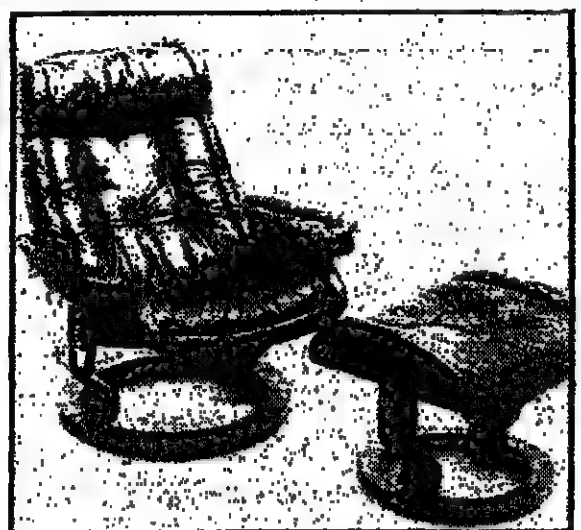
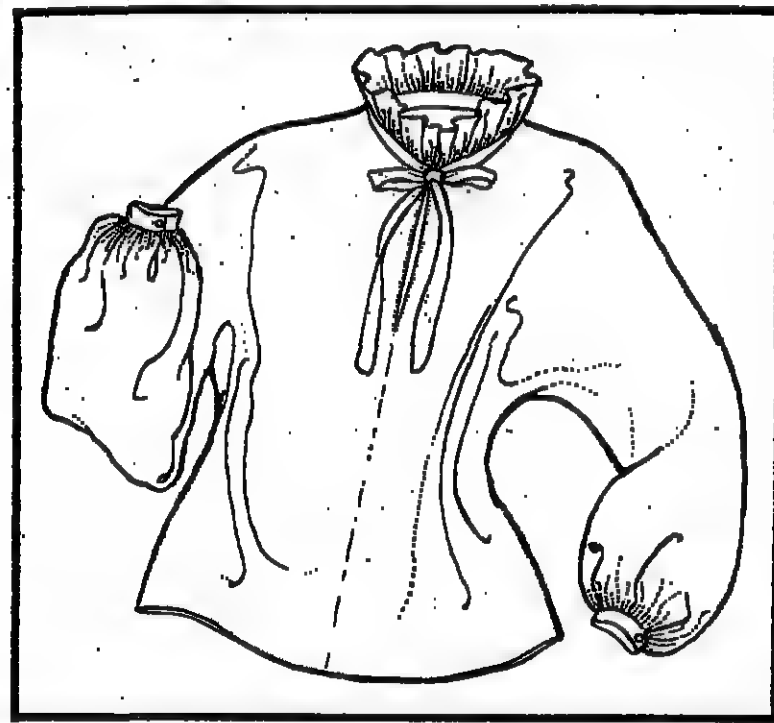
These included the cream raw silk dress illustrated, with a panel of embroidery and appliqué down the front, £55, and a lined, wrap-over skirt in the same heavy silk, with one simple line of embroidery outlining the wrap, £38. This is worn with an ivory crepe de chine blouse with a ruffled collar, £40.

Shadow appliqué — where the colour is applied to the back of the silk and shows through like a delicate watercolour — is used on a white silk twill skirt with an elasticated waist (no fitting problems). This can be teamed with one of three blouses with a choice of pie fill collar, mandarin or pierrot. In each case a sash in the same colour as the appliqué joins the skirt and blouse. £82 the set.

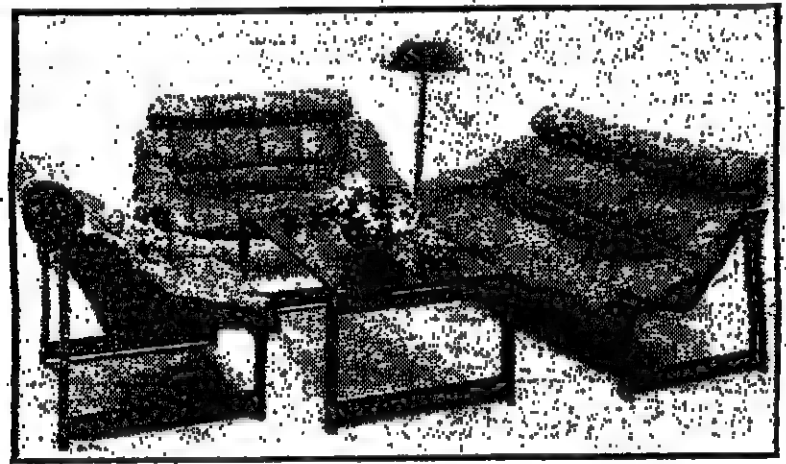
Every item is completely hand-made and beautifully finished and the range is available through Living Art until the exhibition closes on June 20. They are open Tuesday to Friday 11 am to 7 pm, Saturday 10 am to 4 pm, closed 1.15 pm to 2 pm each day. Special commissions can be arranged with Kate Rumens at 18 St Quinton Avenue, London W10 6NU, telephone 01-969 1078.

Above:
Easy-fitting dress to flatter many figure types is in cream raw silk with rows of toning embroidery and braid and coffee coloured applique, £55.
Also available without the applique, £45.
Both by Kate Rumens at Living Art, 35 Kenway Road, London SW5.
Any size to order.

Right:
Hand-made white crepe de chine blouse with ruffled neck, £40 by Kate Rumens at Living Art.



Above: A specially soft Battek grained leather is used for the Eskornes Stressless Royale armchair which adjusts from sitting to reclining positions by the movement of the body. £395, footstool £95. Both from Hounsfield Warehouse, M. B. Design, Croydon and Inter-Dec, Redruth, Cornwall.



Top left: Flex, a folding chair with three seating positions, is the latest variation on the theme by designer Ingmar Relling, who created the award-winning chair, Tjara, above left, now in the V & A Museum. Tjara £264.55 is available at Maples, Charles Page Interiors, Swiss Cottage and Edwards, Indesign, Chester; Hatchetts, Totnes, Devon. Flex £331.90 to

order through Alford House, 18 Verney Road, London SE16. Both are by Westnora Furniture. Above right: The new, softly folded look in furniture, translated into leather and deer, reddish-brown Jostabell wood from Brazil. Armchair £295, two-seater £395, three-seater £525. Called Amazon by Eskornes from Hounsfield Warehouse, London, Hull and Glasgow.



Two royal wedding samplers to embroider. Left, by Mary Gostelow in stranded cotton on linen, £7.59. Above, by The Colleshill Collection, in wool on canvas, £14.95.

These stitches carry royal approval

There is still time, even for the least galvanized needlewoman, to embroider a memento of the royal wedding, so here, from a fileful of designs varying from the attractive to the atrocious, are two of the best for your consideration.

The first is a cross-stitch sampler designed by Mary Gostelow, whose Glamis Castle sampler offered on this page last August, was accepted as a birthday gift by the Queen Mother.

The new wedding sampler measures 10in x 5 1/2in and is one of the few "souvenir textiles" officially permitted to include the royal cypher. The Prince of Wales's feathers are worked in blue, with a matching border of flowers and the crown and lions rampant are in gold, with national emblems in purple, pinks and green. The wording is in dark blue.

The kit includes fabric, stranded

cottons, needle and a colour photograph, instructions for the stitches and for incorporating your own initials. It costs £7.59, including p & p from Sew-a-Sampler, 43 Milton Abbas, Blandford, Dorset.

The second is from the Colleshill Collection, whose designers are graduates of the Royal School of Needlework and the London Central School of Arts. Their sampler shows a double gold ring 1 1/2in across, encircling the national emblems embroidered on deep purple. In the centre are the Prince of Wales's feathers and St Paul's Cathedral. The background is light purple.

The pack contains the double thread canvas, 10 stitches to the inch, needle, all the necessary wools, colour picture and instructions. £14.95, including p & p, from The Colleshill Collection, Ash Cottage, Colleshill, Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP7 0LE.

How to call the bluff of the bleeper brigade

By Caren Meyer

Only after acquiring a telephone answering machine did I discover its most useful function. At last I'm able to have a bath without flooding my flat.

Like bread falling buttered-side down, the phone invariably rings while you're wallowing. But the days of dolphin leaps are over. Nowadays I mop myself — not the floor — then discover who rang while I was soap bubbling.

This unexpected bonus does not apply to loathers of answering machines. They simply hang up when they hear my ghost voice and inform me later: "I hate your thing and refuse to speak to it." Luckily they are few and even some of them overcome their aversion when they want something badly enough.

Although I splurged out on my machine for potential business reasons, it is my personal life that has gained a sparkling new dimension. No longer am I deprived of the knowledge that someone — or two or three — sought my company, advice and/or solace while I was gallivanting elsewhere.

I need not even return home to find that out: in the bowels of my handbag I now carry a bleeper the size of a cigarette packet. And from anywhere — King's Cross or Kuala Lumpur — I can ring home, fish out my bleeper, and thus monitor by remote control who rang me and why.

"You have unlimited time to speak to my machine," my ghost voice encourages my callers. British Telecom — do smile!

Initially, like equally redundant colleagues, I rushed off to Harrods, dazzled by a £150 machine, cheapest bleeper model on the market. Unlike them, I didn't buy it. A mere 30 seconds for callers to record who they are and what they want? Add a hesitation here, a suitable phrase dredging there — and even brevity is

cut off in mid-stream. Not for me, I decided. I want to keep my friends, not alienate them.

Thus began my search for the best buy. When I'd finished, I was three months older and, even, the slickest salesman could no longer bamboozle me. They don't come any slicker than in this particular jungle of red tape, ludicrous lies, foul play, idiocies and blatant misrepresentation.

Shop assistant: "This model, Madam, gives off a bleeping tone when you record a conversation. It's got to do that. GPO regulations."

Stockist: "That model? Not available anywhere because it's not GPO-approved."

Utter nonsense. Next stockist has it. "I might reduce the price if worth my while."

Distributor: "You want a GPO-approved model? Costs you £100 more than the non-approved version and there's really no difference between the two. Why bother?"

Why indeed? The relevant half of the GPO, now known as British Telecom, couldn't care a fig about the excellence of your machine or who services it when it goes wrong. They don't even care if you explode — as long as it doesn't blow up the local exchange as well.

There are dozens of models on the market NOT approved by British Telecom — simply because they're still waiting in the testing queue.

I finally bought a non-certified model after carefully weighing up its merits versus the risk of British Telecom's wrath. Four weeks later my model received their seal of approval.

The risk wasn't enormous. "Do I have to use a non-approved machine and go to prison?" I asked British Telecom. An evasive waffle. Actually no such penal law exists. You can't even be fined.

British Telecom phrased it thus: "If we know you've got a non-certified

model, we test that via the local exchange, then ask you to remove the offending article. If you don't, we insist. How? We have the power to disconnect your telephone."

How many people have thus saved on phone bills? No figures available. Very few, I gather.

It's only since April 1980 that we've been allowed to buy instead of rent telephone answering machines. Approved ones, naturally. Yet I know some highly respectable people who've owned a machine for many years. But since that grand gesture just over a year ago, the market has been flooded with machines, approved and non-approved.

Only innocents like me, certainly not British Telecom, care about the relative merits of one machine over another. As everybody in the industry totally exaggerates the virtue of the machine they stock, the best machine is always the one belonging to whoever you last spoke to. And price variations are ludicrous.

All this produces not only stalemate, but exhaustion, helplessness and apoplexy.

But wait. Who came riding up like a knight on a charger, just when I'd decided I'd give the whole idea up? A monthly magazine called *What to Buy For Business*. No adverts at all, on subscription only. Containing what I can only call an explosive exposure of the telephone answering machine industry, the frankness of which made me write to its editor "I've fallen in love with you unseen."

This is what I read: "The telephone answering market is not just competitive, it is also nasty into the bargain... We have never come across a field where sales rely quite so heavily on passing false or unpleasant information... false claims about inadequacies in rivals' models... complete misstatements of fact, deliberate or otherwise... Rivals accused of being about to go bust or of being dishonest and of just about every sin short of murdering their grandmothers... A lot of nonsense is

talked by both approved and non-approved suppliers as to what Post Office approval actually means... Pirates dismiss all the modifications that approved suppliers must make as worthless... A lot of unapproved machines have a much better overall pedigree than a lot of approved brands."

More? Certainly. "The myth needs destroying that the Post Office has roving squads of pirate spotters, eager to seek revenge on those who dare to put unapproved equipment on the line. Under normal circumstances the PO will never find out... PO engineers are, for all their virtues, not known for their incorruptibility... A lot of cant is talked by approved suppliers, and some of the worst comes from yesterday's pirates who have just passed the test to become honest suppliers..."

More delight in the next nine pages. There, just like *Which?* were tables showing all those familiar dots and columns denoting what technical features the 74 machines in the survey had and didn't have, adding unlike *Which?*, a pithy summing up of the merits or otherwise of each machine.

This was my breakthrough after three frustrating months. Curiously enough I had independently come to the conclusion that one of the magazine's "Best Buys" among the bleeper machines was the very one I wanted — the Record a Call 90A. My hesitation had only been due to the fact that it was not certified. Armed with the magazine's equally firm conviction that this mattered not a jot, I set forth to buy it.

And found yet another hurdle. Who would sell it cheapest yet inspire sufficient confidence of after-sale service? I rang the magazine to plead for advice. "Cheapest price in Shepherd's Bush, but supplier not mentioned in your survey. Also available in Regent Street firm you did mention, but more expensive there. Where should I go?"

A charming voice the other end made me decide to plump for Regent Street.

And thus came to pass my first ever barker by phone. Mr W. in Regent Street said the price for the machine I wanted was £310.35. I said in Shepherd's Bush they'd quoted me £275. Mr W. said he'd have to consult his managing director. He'd ring me back. He did. The price had dropped to £280.60.

I said I'd think about it. Mr W. said he'd ring back in the morning. He didn't. I rang him. He was out. His managing director Mr H. apologized profusely for that discourtesy. What could he do for me?

"You're quoting £280.60," I said. "I can get the machine for £275 in Shepherd's Bush."

Mr H. pondered the matter, then decreed "All right, we'll make it £276." I said, "I'll have it. I'll ring you when I know which evening to instal it."

Mr H. thought that was it. So did I. Until someone mentioned they had a sale on in Edgeware Road. The price there — £250.

So I bought my machine in Edgeware Road, then rang Mr H. in Regent Street to break the nasty news. Mr H. wasn't in. Mr W. wasn't in. Mr B. was. I told him my apologetic tale and when I'd finished, Mr B. said "Can't you take your machine back to Edgeware Road?" But why? "Because we might be able to match the price you paid..."

PS. In spite of inflation the cost of my "illegal" machine has dropped by £25 since I bought it in the same shop three months ago. The newly-approved version? That's £37.50 more than I paid originally.

PPS. A fellow journalist with a machine of his own said: "You bought a bleeper one? Do you realize how dangerous that is? If someone manages to obtain a bleeper with your own frequency, he can then listen to all your incoming calls." True, I said. "But until I join M15 that won't matter."

The other best buys recommended by What to Buy For Business were the Answercall Director (bleeper) and the Answercall Executive (non-bleeper).

Are you picnicking at Glyndebourne or shooting off to Bisley?

If we can believe the calendar, it is now the summer. Not that you could tell by looking out of the window. To some extent, the clouds are still stacking up in a backlog caused by a premature week of good weather in Easter. However, the summer is in and in accordance with tradition, the British will be on the move.

Barry, Scott and Troy will be revving up their Lambrettas outside my house for a good hour before taking Debbie, Tracey and Maurice on a spin down to Brighton, there to give the middle-aged on the beach someone to moan about between the Thermoses of stewed tea and 'Spam' sandwiches with real sand.

But there are others who take off in the summer, the well-to-do who use the longer daylight hours to extend the bounds of sociability. In the summer, there are a succession of events designed not to be enjoyed but to be commended by what we might call the Summertime Blues, for whom, as the late, unlamented William Haley used to yodel, there ain't no cure.

Even now, the SB calendar will be full to the brim, darlings, with things to do. They prefer exclusive events—nor so exclusive that they themselves might be excluded, you understand—where those who can afford it without a thought can be easily spotted and separated from those who have had to save up. Such an event is Glyndebourne, where opera is the Summertime Blues little more than

musical bookends to the main attraction: the interval.

The picnic is a perfect meal for the socially ostentatious and the menu should be planned for conspicuous consumption. Best, choose a place before curfew at which to gorge a little sparkling wine and nibble some slices of smoked salmon, thinly veneered on each side with a hint of brown bread and butter. At the interval the chauffeur, who has been watching the television in the Bentley, should deliver the hampers. A single hamper should be seen, but a hamper for every course and a wine hamper all of its own. (A ready-filled hamper, even from one of the nearest grocers, is considered a little drastic.)

Music lovers can be easily spotted by their shabby dinner-jackets and their habit of eating their picnics without an anxious glance about them. Sadly for the SBs, Glyndebourne is becoming strangled with desperate exporters impressing their clients and Japanese by the coach-load on the high culture tour of Britain who are surprised to find that the British have already minuted the opera.

Later this month is Royal Ascot, which looks like a Moss Eros convention, the only place in Britain since the war where everyone wears a hat. Royal Ascot is solely for the SBs. The racing, even the royal seating, is secondary. The main dilemma is where best to miss the horses, incarcerated next to the drinks table in a private box or behind the grandstand saying good

afternoon to other strangely dressed couples.

For a man, the dilemma is how to raise a top hat when holding the race card and a glass of g and t in one hand and the field glasses and his wife's handbag in another. For a woman, most of the time is spent holding on to the hat which looked so pretty in the shop, yet somehow on the journey down to Ascot has learnt how to fly. The fun starts when a pair of such couples meet on the way to the paddock and have to find a free hand for shaking.

Then there is Wimbledon. At this time of year young stockbrokers and solicitors can be expected to slope off from work shortly after lunch to take advantage of the ticket their mother was awarded in the lottery. Young secretaries go off for weeks on end, yet can be seen each evening in Cadogan Place gardens, thumping tennis balls at white-knuckled young suitors inspired by the Centre Court example.

And at the beginning of July comes Henley Royal Regatta, the only place outside the King's Road where a pink and purple striped blazer looks conspicuous. SBs are not expected to take part, because that entails a great deal of abstinence, and if there is one thing a Summertime Blue can do without it is doing without. What would Henley be if it were forbidden to eat strawberries and cream and down power mugs of Pimm's, that glorious drink which tastes like sucking Thier through a hedgerow?

A little drunkenness is allowed

at Henley, as long as it is well outside the Steward's Enclosure. It is perfectly permissible, however, to zig-zag along the townside bank, a couple of hours gallantly trailing their arms in the water while their girls now hopelessly towards a pink slip-plaque full of tinsel free-loaders. Few SBs remain for the best part of the Regatta, the fireworks display on the Saturday night.

The shooting at Bisley during July and August is usually considered a little too earnest for our happy hedonists, as is the polo at Cowdray and Windsor. But August means Cowes Week and a swift restoration of relations with the boating hores. It also means a rare confrontation between the SBs and the British coast. As far as most of them are concerned, the sea is only really attractive if it is warm enough to water-ski on, which rules out most stretches of water north of St Tropez.

Scattered throughout the summer are parties galore and especially weddings, where marquee on lawns are full to bursting with SB friends of the happy couple. Such outdoor events are the only occasions when they may be expected to arrive—to be welcomed by the bride's father, who at least likes to see the faces of those who are making him bankrupt, or standing in line for the Palace garden parties. Otherwise, the self-elevated likes to think that he comes first by nature. For them, better to travel first than to arrive.

Nicholas Wapshott

Legs are made for walking

I used to hate walking. I was a drowsy child who would hang on to my mother's arm like a dead weight, or complain of asthma and persuade my father to carry me on his shoulders.

The idea that walking was boring remained lodged in my mind for the rest of my youth, and in those days if someone had suggested going for a walk I might well have replied: "Where to? Why? What for?" "What's the point?" it would not have occurred to me that any pleasure lay in just walking.

But now walking has proved to be like spring greens and spinach—things I hated as a child, but have grown to like so much that they have almost become a passion.

Once a keen golfer, I now find myself almost completely uninterested in the prospect of setting the ball into the hole. It is just too boring a club, but all this crouching over puts, all the concentration, then the inevitable disappointment and

frustration that results—it all seems so unnecessary.

Walking offers much more variety. You can inject a competitive element if you like, such as aiming to reach a certain pub at a certain number of miles away before closing time. Or you can set off with no end in view. And it is an entirely different experience depending on whether you go on your own, with one other person, or with a group.

You may not be the sort of person who likes the idea of walking by yourself. I happen to enjoy it very much—but then I like going to the cinema on my own, too, and I know lots of people think that odd.

Walking by yourself is rather like fishing: you can let the imagination work. Just as I think of all sorts of fishing monsters lurking in even the soothing brown-water of the Thames, so I give my imagination free rein on a walk in the country.

How many other people have walked through these woods, and what lovers' trysts were made or dark deeds done? Did wolves once roam over these hillsides?

There is nothing like a good daydream, and although you can have a good daydream just lying in bed, it is much better when you are walking, sensitive to so many different sights, sounds and smells.

I shall never forget one walk, up Sheepstor, on the edge of Dartmoor, a wonderfully wild spot, where I felt a compulsion to take all my clothes off and leap from rock to rock like a wild man of long ago (I think I had just been studying Chateaubriand and the French romantic movement). There was no one around at the time, so I succumbed to the impulse.

I hasten to add that I have not made a habit of this type of activity, and there are few places in Britain where it is advisable for fear of prosecution or frostbite. If you have occasional naturist longings, better go to the Greek Islands.

I also enjoy walking in winter, with plenty of clothes on. Not long ago I was on Dartmoor again, walking through frost and snow to a gorgeously welcoming pub near Ashburton. Occasional stone circles were a reminder that thousands of years ago, wild primitive men stood on the same spot. A cold, clear river would yield trout later in the year.

A place in my heart will always be reserved for the Cresser valley in North Wales. Impossible not to dream as one walks up towards the mountain called Cnicht, through magical glades where the trees are coated in moss and ferns, and the stream runs down waterfall to pool in a meadow again.

Surrey or Oxfordshire have magnificent woods; there is a wonderful melancholy in walking through



fallen leaves. In Wales and Scotland there are mountains. In the Lake District there are lakes. In Yorkshire there are moors. In Lincolnshire and Suffolk plains and creeks. All have their peculiar effect. Superfluous to attempt any further descriptions.

You do not have to take it seriously, with back packs, maps and compasses. Just buy a pair of boots and walk. It is the most relaxing thing in the world.

Rupert Morris

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The fiercest fish live on dry land

So, why in the names of Hambleton and Marylebone do we carry on exposing ourselves to so much.

From *English Cricket* by Christopher Brinker, published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson

It is the most literary and artistic of games, having inspired more good writing and painting than all other sports taken together, including the bogus sport of hunting.

Quisque suas leges imponere ludo
There are still terrible rows because
we all have our own interpretation
of the rules that we want to impose.

get my head right over the ball and watch it on to the middle of the bat.

Philip Howard

Philip Howard

The area around him is littered with empty beer cans and his tri-

then be careful when approached by *Anglicki Trout*. Often this man

Stewart Tendler

Stewart Tendler

Sail away time for beginners

Despite the enormous growth in the sport's popularity in the past 50 years, a surprisingly large number of people still feel it is too expensive or exclusive for them. They may be deterred because they do not know how or where to start.

Boat ownership is not a prerequisite for membership of other clubs. The great majority are dinghy clubs which stage regular racing at weekends, often throughout the year, and new and en-

John Young

SUMMER TIMES '81

[illegible]



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

SEVEN PER CENT FULL STOP

More fouling up of the public services and public revenues can now be expected, but in spite of that there is much encouragement to be drawn from the Government's refusal to be pushed beyond its 6 per cent cash limit for the pay increase of the civil service. Pay is a very large component in total public expenditure. The huge inflation of its cost in the first year of this Government's life is one of its economic intentions. If it cannot bring that item under control it cannot make good the rest. The 7 per cent offer to civil servants was tight, but in the circumstances and in the light of movement in their pay over the previous two years it was fair, and so it must have seemed to most wage-earners and to two and a half million unemployed. It is decidedly in the public interest that ministers should stand by their judgment and resist the sectional aggression of its employees.

It is in the public interest for another reason too. Many strikes and forms of disruption short of that cost the strikers little though they may cost the

employer, or his customers, or the random public, much. Yet it has come to be assumed as part of the rules of the game that if people withdraw their labour they are entitled to be given something for their trouble before they go back. There have been some recent salutary exceptions. It would be a good thing if another exception were made of the civil servants, whose disruptive tactics so far have been devised so as to require very little sacrifice on their part while doing much temporary and some permanent damage to the public revenues, and imposing acute inconvenience on some travellers and shippers and other classes of victim. It is too easy, by a strike or its variants, to do great harm to others at very little hurt to oneself. To be automatically recompensed at the end of it is asking too much.

The reputedly moderate leaders of the civil service unions have been given to consistently immoderate language from the beginning of the dispute. Mr Kendall yesterday talked of a gross insult (being told for the twentieth time that 7 per cent is

the limit) and of ministers attacked by malice and irresponsibility. That is playing to the militants. The momentum of self-righteous injury now dictates at the least a phase in which these securely positioned employees of the state take it out of the unemployed by disrupting their payments, and out of those newly eligible for child benefit. They will not easily convince their victims that it is all the fault of the Thatcher government.

If the leaders of these unions are the moderates they profess to be, instead of recommending wider strikes they should now be looking forward to the moment to advise their members that this is a government that means what it says in a matter of this kind: that 7 per cent is all that is going and that they must content themselves with the more important objective of getting the best pay fixing arrangements for the future that they can — something about which ministers are showing a fairly open mind. If the union leaders lack the confidence to do that on their own authority, let them ballot their members.

THE FRENCH LEFT LINES UP

This week's agreement between the Socialists and the Communists in France is remarkable not so much for what it is as for what it is not. The agreement provides for a system of withdrawals between the two rounds of the parliamentary elections by which the candidate of the party which is less likely to win stands down in favour of the candidate of the other one; and it contains a list of policy issues on which the two parties agree, mainly in such areas as job creation and the length of the working week. But it stops well short of being a joint programme of government of the sort which the two parties have had in the past, and it leaves out altogether a number of critical issues on which they have not been able to agree — among them the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Poland, the Soviet SS20 missiles, the Camp David agreement between Israel and Egypt, and the extent of the nationalizations that should be carried out in France. Most important of all, there is no commitment to having Communists in any government that is formed after the elections.

The Communists have been insisting on being in the government, and would have liked a more far-reaching agreement. But the Socialists have been in much the stronger position since the poor showing of M

Marchais in the presidential election and the subsequent victory of M Mitterrand. The latest polls suggest that they will continue on this wave of success in the parliamentary elections, to be held on June 14 and 21, and will win a large number of new seats, many of them from the Communists. So they have virtually been able to dictate terms to the Communists. The agreement that has now been reached enables them to claim that they are indeed committed to the unity of the left, which they need if they are to pick up votes on their left. But it also shows that they are not in this too, the Communists, which will help them to win votes in the centre.

President Mitterrand and his Socialist colleagues will, therefore, only after the elections have to decide on the question of whether or not to have Communists in the government. Much will depend on the outcome of the elections and the relative strengths of the various parties. Basically, M Mitterrand needs a majority that he can count on in the National Assembly, and the assumption is that the Socialists will not win an overall majority on their own — though there have been suggestions in the past few days that they might even achieve that. But the stronger the Socialists emerge from the elections — even without win-

ning an overall majority — the greater their freedom of action will be; and it is not inconceivable that they might be able to put together a government without the Communists, by attracting support from the centre.

The advantages of this would be obvious. It would free M Mitterrand and his Government from the need to take any account of Communist policies; and it would be a great relief to France's friends and allies. The new French government would probably be something like the present one, moderately leftist. But there is another point of view, which will presumably be put forward in any discussions on the issue. The Socialists and the Communists would do better to have the Communists inside the government rather than outside because they would then be less likely to cause trouble. Inside the government, with a few relatively unimportant positions, they would be inhibited from attacking the government or stirring up industrial unrest. Outside, they would be free to criticize the Socialists for selling out the working class, and they might recover the popular support they have lost. However, M Mitterrand should be wary of this argument, particularly in view of the opportunistic record of the French Communist Party.

A SENTENCE TO MATCH THE CRIME

In passing a sentence of life imprisonment on the armed robber who shot Police Constable Olds, Mr Justice Skinner has taken some of the sting from the immediate and perhaps over-hasty reaction to the jury's verdict that Stuart Blackstock had not been guilty of attempted murder, the main charge against him. Far from being worthy of criticism, the jury's finding appears to demonstrate (we do not, of course, know details of their deliberations and motives) that they took their decision seriously, and based their decision on the evidence as they saw it, and not on their, or anyone else's, emotions. Their verdicts, though not the most obvious, were perfectly proper for them to have reached.

The public's and the police's initial shock was understandable. Here was a man who had set out on a criminal enterprise with a loaded revolver. It may be that he did not want to or mean to use it, and hoped he would not have to use it. But that cannot be an excuse, moral or legal. He must at least have contemplated firing it if things went wrong — an uncooperative

shopkeeper, or an intervening third person, whether policeman or not.

Apart from murder itself (where there are often extenuating circumstances) no crime so revolts the public as that of shooting an unarmed policeman doing his duty. It is right that such a crime should attract the most severe sentences of imprisonment. It does not much matter whether it is classed as attempted murder, or an apparently lesser offence, provided that the sentence can fit the circumstances of the crime. But it must be ensured that a sufficiently wide range of appropriate charges is available. Otherwise there is a danger that those who attack the police may get off lightly, or altogether.

Blackstock was convicted of wounding with intent to resist arrest, a crime found in the Offences against the Person Act of 1861, which has up to now escaped repeal. Last year, however, the Criminal Law Revision Committee, in the course of a comprehensive review of all the law, from murder down to common assault, on crimes against the person, recommended that a number of offences

under the 1861 Act should be simplified and redefined. Fortunately, nothing has yet been done to implement the report, for a change in the law according to the committee's proposals would benefit future Blackstocks.

The committee recommended the replacement of the Victorian definition with "causing serious injury with intent to cause serious injury", still punishable, however, with life imprisonment. No mention is made of resisting arrest. The jury's approach to the charge of attempted murder shows how difficult it is to predict the result when the question of intent is in issue. A jury trying the proposed new crime might be tempted to convict on the lesser charge of "causing serious injury recklessly", carrying only five years as its maximum.

The 1861 definition made it clear that the intent to resist arrest was usually easy to prove — would be enough to bring a wounding within the most serious category, that punishable with life imprisonment. If the law is to be modernized, that element of it must be retained.

MOPPING UP THE BROADS

Drained fens make exceptionally productive farmland. As landscapes, they are uninspiring. They no longer support the distinctive flora and fauna of the wetlands, like the fen orchid, the bittern and the swallowtail butterfly. The process of draining still goes on, though more slowly now, in the remnants of the fens and the semi-drained marshy pastures which, although partially cultivated, preserve much of the traditional character of the East Anglian landscape, and give refuge to fenland animals and vegetation in their network of dykes. The largest remaining stretch of such land, Halvergate Marshes, is now under threat of being turned into dull, dry prairie.

The economics of drainage are less straightforward than they used to be. Grants from the Ministry of Agriculture are available to encourage such projects. The Halvergate ppa would normally attract a grant of almost one million pounds, or half of its cost, and would not promise a worthwhile return without it. But the plan has aroused loud protests, and

yesterday the Norfolk Broads Authority decided not to give its approval without a further attempt to reach a more satisfactory compromise with the body representing local farming interests which has proposed the scheme. Before the Minister finally decides about a grant, opponents including the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the Countryside Commission want a public inquiry into its consequences and its predicted profits.

The marshes lie between the Yare and the Bure, the two main rivers of the Broads, where they flow towards their confluence at Yarmouth. They are not the last large area of their kind, and others are at least as important as habitats for wildlife. But, extending over nearly 6,000 acres, they are the largest single such area, and the effect such places make on the observer has much to do with the impression of space. The Nature Conservancy Council believes that wide areas of grazing marshland outside its Broads reserves are needed to safeguard the threatened local species.

The competition between farm-

ing, conservation and recreation is as acute in the Norfolk Broads as it is anywhere in the country. The departmental division in Whitehall between Environment and Agriculture makes it difficult for governments to balance the weight of these interests. Not only in the Broads, but also up on the moors and in lowland hedgerows, the distribution of grants for "improvements" of dubious benefit except in the distorted farm pricing system of the EEC goes ahead with only cursory regard to environmental factors. The fate of Halvergate Marshes would probably have been sealed as a matter of routine and without publicity if the Government had not agreed quite recently to seek comments on such proposals from the Norfolk Broads Authority, which has for 20 years been a kind of National Park Authority in waiting. The case shows how important it is to have a body able actively to defend conservation interests in the Broads, and also of ensuring that controversial agricultural schemes involving major public subsidies can regularly be scrutinized by public inquiries able to consider both profitability and environmental effects.

Liberals' view of Social Democrats

From the Chairman of the Liberal Party

Sir, I should be unwise to comment too directly upon Tim Ellis's timely warning of this Social Democratic colleagues (June 5) not to import the habitually partisan style of Labour Party politics into their dealings with the Liberal Party. In both parties, and in their wider context, there is almost unanimous acceptance that an alliance is essential in the interests of the nation. It is also the only way to take full advantage of immense latent support in the electorate. But building an effective and credible alliance is going to require a degree of sustained good will, good faith and forbearance unparalleled between two distinctive political parties even in wartime. Nor will it be sufficient to seek to establish a formal alliance principally at national level. The key to success lies at the local level. It is there that the strength of our two parties must be brought to bear to establish a framework of nationally acceptable procedures within which local decisions can be made and, hopefully, local collaboration will flourish.

It really does not help to speculate about the total number of seats each party is going to fight at the next general election. The overall result is much more important. The fact that we shall have "first refusal" of the next by-election after Warrington certainly does not mean that we have agreed to divide the country equally between us.

The first priority is rather to establish our common aims and to declare our determination together to offer the electorate not only policies for national recovery but also by example a style of politics engendering a spirit of unity and common purpose in the nation. Without this spirit the most ingenious policies for recovery will fail.

On the national level our talks have made an excellent start, but we must not for one moment forget the need to be sensitive to local opinion in each other's parties, as well as in our own. In that context my Liberal colleagues in the Mersey region and Warrington constituency have shown considerable political maturity in the face of what many felt was a rather pre-emptive strike by our Social Democratic friends when the by-election was announced.

Effective collaboration at Warrington, which means so much to the developing alliance, still depends upon local Liberal response once the Social Democratic candidate has been named.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER PINCHAM,
Chairman of the Liberal Party,
1 Whitehall Place, SW1
June 5.

Care for mentally ill

From Dr Richard Stern

Sir, Stimulated by Mr Tony Smythe's recent article "Do we care about minds?" (May 27) I write as "the doctor in charge" — probably doing his best to cope with a patient whose condition is "basically impossible". Working as I do in a "large mental hospital in South London" my aim is to keep patients out of hospital as long as possible, only admit them when absolutely necessary, and to keep them in for as brief a period as possible. Here I rely on my social worker colleagues to liaise with community resources, find accommodation for the elderly, assist with re-employment for the young, and the myriad of other functions she conducts.

However, I have had no social worker for the last seven months. When she became seriously ill seven months ago the Local Authority refused to replace her because of financial cutbacks, despite numerous letters. I have written to the Director of Social Services and others. Without a social worker to make contact between the hospital and facilities such as those provided by MIND, those of us still left to care for the mentally ill find ourselves increasingly helpless.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD STERN,
Springfield Hospital,
61 Glenburnie Road, SW17
May 28.

Virtues of the pre-fab

From Mr Ian M. Leslie

Sir, Mr J. M. Carroll (May 22) does injustice to Mr Bryan Jefferson and to "the pre-fabs hastily erected after the war" by ignoring the architecture ("P" architects). Preparations in fact began in 1942 within the Ministry of Works on a design for what became known as the "Portal" temporary house, designed by the late Eileen Neal, the Carwood and the Riley-Newsom dwellings. All these homes had benefit of architects, which perhaps is why most of them, 35 years later, are still "highly regarded by their inhabitants".

Yours faithfully,
IAN M. LESLIE,
64 Hamilton Terrace, NW8
May 23.

University control

From Mr Shyng Evans

Sir, Professor John Griffith writes (June 3) "It cannot be too strongly emphasized that universities must, in a free society, make their own decisions on how to spend their income. Any other way of proceeding must destroy, probably for ever, the independence of universities."

This was precisely the argument advanced, fortunately to no avail, by the Tories who resisted university reform in the nineteenth century. Yours, etc.
ELWYN EVANS,
Green Room Club,
9 Adam Street, WC2
June 3.

Adjustment to Chiefs of Staff powers

From Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir William F. Dickson

Sir, Most reluctantly I feel compelled to write to you again on the subject of defence. I can understand the feelings of some of your readers: he is old, out of date and out of touch. Why not lie down and leave it to those who serve today? But they are not free to speak. So someone like myself has to decide whether the strong views you express on defence organization need to be challenged. I think they do.

I refer to the leader that appeared on June 2 under the title "Time to say goodbye to Buggies". It started by commending the Government's recent ministerial adjustments within the Ministry of Defence, but it went on to urge the Prime Minister to "finish the job" while she "had the chance".

The job it saw was to suppress the pressures of the Service Staffs and the voice of their chiefs by giving greater power to the Chief of the Defence Staff. This may sound like a logical conclusion, but it is not as easy as that, and since you mention surgery I would remind you that drastic and over-ambitious surgery is not always the answer.

What is at risk is the invaluable asset which our constitution has in its Chiefs of Staff Committee and its supporting organization. It was the concept of Lord Hankey. It proved its value in the war and subsequently and it is a model which most democracies have copied.

It brings together the expertise of the three Services and the functions of sea, land and air power and it forges and submits joint military advice to the Government. The strength and value of the Chiefs of Staff Committee is that jointly and individually they are responsible for carrying out the advice they present.

I have served closely under nine Ministers of Defence and from Churchill onwards there was not one who did not value and respect the Chiefs of Staff Committee. They provided it, they argued with it and often overruled it, but there was not one of these ministers who would have been happy without it or would have wished to emasculate it.

Of course the Chiefs of Staff have difficulty in presenting agreed advice in the course of urgent reviews of defence policy involving major changes in the shape and size of the Services, and their reactions may cause irritation. But a wise minister knows how to make the best use of the reactions, by judicious questions put to the

committee by the Chief of the Defence Staff. This helps him to weigh the pros and cons of the many options he has to consider. The Chief of Defence Staff has an essential coordinating and advisory role, but the strength and value of his advice derives from his membership and chairmanship of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. It is a dangerous suggestion that he could be someone who has not previously served on the Chiefs of Staff Committee and that he be given overriding powers.

It may seem a logical conclusion to tidy minds to narrow the base to a strong minister and one military adviser, but what might befall if they happened to have the wrong ideas or were not quite the right men for the job? It should be the constant endeavour to improve the working of the defence machine, but we must not remove its central cog. Yours faithfully,
W. F. DICKSON,
Foxbarrow House,
Cold Ash,
Berkshire,
June 4.

The case for Trident

From Air Chief Marshal Sir Nigel Maynard

Sir, Lord Gladwyn argues against the retention of an independent British strategic nuclear deterrent, particularly in the form of Trident (May 28). Lord Boyd-Carpenter answers him with his very succinct and imaginative "short question" (May 29).

Let us retain this vital capability, but let us not necessarily be exercised through a force of very expensive special submarines. The submarine certainly has the great advantages of mobility and security, and presents a very difficult target to be launched from. But too often we have allowed the best to be the enemy of the good, and surely we could provide ourselves with a nuclear deterrent sufficiently secure and potent to be credible, at a fraction of the cost, using aircraft equipped with air-launched cruise missiles which we have already planned for the future.

And so, Air Admirals, this might result in more hulls being available to meet the anti-submarine task. Yours faithfully,
NIGEL MAYNARD,
Foxbarrow House,
Cold Ash,
Berkshire,
Oxfordshire,
June 4.

Hunger strike morality

From Mr Alain Woodrow

Sir, Your leader of May 27, "Hunger strikers and the Church", regrets that "the message of the Church" is not "delivered from Ireland and relayed [abroad] with unwavering clarity".

You seem to overlook the fact that the Church has never issued a "message of unwavering clarity" with regard to hunger strikes. Indeed, we have taken up opposing stands in different countries, apparently finding it difficult to transcend national and political issues.

Whilst you are familiar with the stance of the British Catholic Church, St. Thomas Aquinas' teaching on death is a form of violence which "cannot be condoned by the Church as being in accordance with God's will for man's brother" (John xv, 13).

For a hunger strike to be morally acceptable, therefore, several conditions are required: that the cause is exceptional; that the hunger strike is the last resort; that it has a reasonable chance of succeeding; that the hunger striker is acting altruistically and not for selfish motives.

It is far from evident, however, that any of these conditions are fulfilled by the Maze hunger strikers.

Yours sincerely,
ALAIN WOODROW,
Religious Affairs Correspondent,
Le Monde,
5 rue des Italiens,
75002 Paris,
May 30.

Salvation Army hostels

From Mr Nigel Bankford

Sir, ATV's film, *For God's Sake, Carol* (letter, May 27) is an interesting precedent for a new kind of cheque on journalism, the five-column investigative sort, in which cleverly disguised impostors invade various organisations to expose them, with damaging consequences for the victims. The film ignores those who actually run the thing, while they poke hidden cameras around corners and wave concealed tape-recorders under unsuspecting victims' noses. Is this good old-fashioned journalism? I have my doubts. Even if the ends do justify the means, the conclusions remain in doubt.

To be sure, there is room for improvement in any human organisation and a place for constructive criticism. But before judgment is passed on Salvation Army hostels I beg the critics to arm themselves with the necessary facts and seek to obtain a reasoned perspective of the work carried out in these hostels by us — the staff workers.

Yours faithfully,
IAN M. LESLIE,
64 Hamilton Terrace, NW8
May 23.

Private schools

From Count Stephen Palffy

Sir, Labour Party (TUC) policy towards private schools seems to be modelled on early eighteenth century Tory/High Church policy towards dissenting schools, which (to quote Professor J. H. Plumb) was "excellent both in what was taught and in how it was taught". The Church saw danger to its monopolies and preferred suppression to the provision of equal or better education in those academic preserves which it controlled" (Sir Robert Walpole, vol. 172), *The Papers of Sir Robert Walpole*, ed. by J. H. Plumb, Basingstoke for Deputy Leader?

Yours,
STEPHEN PALFFY,
12 Park Road,
Richmond,
Surrey,
May 29.

Luggage problems

From the Divisional Manager, British Rail (Southern)

Sir, May 1, encroach upon your columns once again and refer to the letter from Mrs A. E. Devlin (May 12/7).

Let me say straight away that close liaison between British Rail and the British Airports Authority at Gatwick takes place frequently and at all levels, in one of which I participate personally.

It is quite true that trolleys must be left on the airport side of the railway ticket barrier, but this is solely because we have been unable so far, in spite of comprehensive research both here and abroad, to provide a trolley which will be safe beyond all reasonable doubt upon either the old staircase or the new escalators, which came into use today (June 1) as just one feature of our new £10m station. It has not been possible (for reasons of available space) to provide moving walkways, escalators, or in the design of the new station. Lifts are available for those who are in any way unable to use the escalators and staircases. They also provide access for BAA porters catering for passengers' luggage between platforms and airport.

Finally, I would assure Mrs Devlin and other passengers passing Gatwick Airport station and our rail services emanating from that point that we are fully appreciative of the importance of this station when considering foreign visitors' first impressions of this country.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. R. MACKMURDIE,
Essex House,
College Road,
Croydon,
June 1.

Rescue kit

From Mr I. H. Nicol

Sir, I have recently chanced on an admirable method of persuading kittens down from trees. I commend it to your readers.

The kitten is too scared or too stupid to come down from the tree, leave it there until dusk (resistance to pitiless cries is essential). Then shine a torch at the kitten and once you have its attention, gradually move the light down the tree. The kitten will follow.

A nourishing meal should then be provided for the kitten, and a large drink for the rescuer.

Yours faithfully,
I. H. NICOL,
Hope Cottage,
14 Wood Lane, N6,
May 29.

Winning manners

From Mr Rex Roberts

Sir, I am 79 years of age. If I had ridden the Derby winner at the age of 19, and when interviewed on television had had the grace of Walter Swinburn to say "I was a passenger on a great good horse", I should feel that I had done more for my country than I do at the moment.

Yours obediently,
REX ROBERTS,
Royal Crescent Hotel,
Royal Crescent,
Bath,
June 3.

مجلس

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Sharp retreat across the board

After subdued trading all day, leading equities fell sharply in the last hour, worried by the outcome of sterling's fall on interest rates and by inflation.

Jobbers were believed to be selling short in expectation of a further collapse when trading opens on Monday. Investors kept a low profile throughout the day attempting to interpret the full implications of sterling's drop against the dollar, down at \$1.91. The news of the 21 per cent prime rate by the United States Girard bank and the breakdown in Civil Service pay talks against the demand for dollar-earners and proved too much. In the last hour blue chip shares collapsed, wiping out the previous day's gains. Even the earlier demand for dollar-earners and exporter stocks, took a back-seat. Falls were marked in electricals, properties on fears of dearer money, breweries and stores.

The gilt market continued to take the brunt of the worries of a higher MLR and inflation control falls. Further selling prompted falls of up to £1. Longs, opening at previous night's levels, attempted a brief rally, but extended losses to £1. After a shaky start, shorts drifted through the day. Again, a faint rally was knocked by more selling and losses were up to £1. Dealers reported a confused and depressing conditions.

And the FT Index, which

only drifted in the morning to register at 0.4 fall to 555.1 at noon, fell 5.1 by 3 p.m. But by the close it collapsed to fall 9.3 on the day to 546.3.

Business in leading equities started firmly despite the low levels of trading activity. But the late afternoon news was quick to unsettle them. After its recent good results Beechams had risen 6p to 212p during the day but closed down at 203p. ICI at one time up at 280p taking strength from the pound's level against the Deutschmark, toppled 14p to 274p. Unilever, a big dollar earner, fell 8p to 563p.

Other leaders to suffer were Fisons, 5p easier at 150p. Hawker Siddeley down 4p at 308p and Glaxo 8p lower at 356p after 36p during the day. But Blue Circle, up 8p at 46p, is drawing strength still from United States interests.

The prospects of dearer money from an increase in in-

terest rates saw sharply lower prices in the property sector. MEPC dipped 12p to 218p. Hammerson was 5p down at 630p. Land Securities was 10p lower at 380p and Stock Conversion 13p at 343p.

Electricals, which have been boosted during the week by the benefits from British Telecom's increased finances, and the low pound, had a disappointing time. Jobbers reported wild price movements in this sector, conditions and most shares closed trading at the bottom range. GEC clipped 18p to 680p. Plessey eased 11p to 510p. Racal 11p to 359p and Farall 7p down to 502p.

Phone Rentals gave up 7p to 343p. Standard Telephone 7p to 518p and Thorn EMI 14p to 388p.

Breweries were a mixed sector. Although the much higher profits and the lack of a rights issue from Allied served to boost shares 21p to 751p the

sector fell with the rest of the market after hours. Whitbread gave up 2p to 184p by the close but Bass, with good results expected on Tuesday, gained 3p to 247p.

Equity turnover for June 4 was £159,887m (average 15,181). Active stocks according to the Exchange Telegraph were Allied Breweries, Sun Alliance, Commercial Union, Eagle Star, GEC, Unilever, Beecham, Royal Insurance, Guardian Royal, Blue Circle, TCI, Bowater and Scottish and Newcastle.

Traditional options: Dealers reported moderate conditions yesterday. Calls were made in Burmah, Howard Tomes, Transparent Paper, Mersey Docks, Tozer Kemley, and Phoenix Timber.

Traded options: A total of 1,781 contracts were completed. Racal attracted 14 P and O 11, RTZ 5, Shell 16 and Land Securities 92.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Inc or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Allied Breweries (F)	2,258(2,200)	112.4(113.1)	12.2(13.3)	3.0(3.0)	3/8	5.0(5.0)
Bertrams (F)	1.55(1.66)	0.13(0.48)	—	—	—	—
Bath & Portland (F)	32.79(72.59)	1.48(2.76)	6.3(9.5)	1.0(2.01)	2/7	2.0(2.61)
Barker & Dobson (F)	35.05(31.2)	0.47(0.5)	1.74(1.52)	—	—	—
Dobson Park Inds (I)	83.26(88.689)	5.089(7.779)	4.2(7.4)	1.9(1.89)	19/8	5.2(7)
Delyn (F)	6.56(6.1)	0.14(0.122)	0.14(0.122)	0.14(0.122)	—	—
Dewk Group (F)	9.4(8.6)	0.350(0.280)	4.33(3.59)	—	—	—
Howard Wyndham	17.5(15.2)	1.7(0.8)	20.3(9.0)	—	—	—
Victoria Carpets (F)	14.7(15.3)	0.358(0.114)	—	0.5(0.11)	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pension shares. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. * = loss, † = 18 months.

Philips unveils CEI details

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Details of the offer for sale of 60 per cent of Cambridge Electronic Industries (CEI), by Philips, the Dutch electronics group, have been announced. At the 75p offer for sale price, CEI's market capitalisation would be £27m.

CEI comprises a group of 20 operating companies involved mainly in passive componentry and sub-systems for a range of customers from telecommunications to process control. The companies were part of Fye,

in which Philips bought out the outstanding 39 per cent minority during 1979. The rest of Fye has been integrated in the Philips' operations but more specialised, small scale areas did not fit into the Philips structure.

CEI is forecasting a fall in profits during 1981 from £6.2m to not less than £5m because of the drop in orders caused by the recession. The electronic electrical components division, which last year accounted

for three fifths of group sales of £83m and 68 per cent of trading profit, has suffered worst although order intake has recovered in recent months.

Because the shares are being sold at the bottom of the cycle, the yield on the former £2.5p gross dividend is 7.1 per cent at 75p which is above average for electronics companies. On £5m profit the prospective p/e ratio is 12.3 on a full tax charge. CEI is confident that the dividend will be covered by current cost earnings.

Profits fall at Bath and Portland

Bath and Portland Group, a varied concern ranging from civil engineering and stone quarrying to fertilisers and chemicals, has now published its figures for the year to October 31, 1980 and reports pretax profits down from £7.6m to £1.4m, but after tax profits attributable to shareholders were still nearly £1m. The figures normally appear in February.

Work stopped on a £105m roadbuilding contract in Iran some months ago after the authorities there refused to pay, and the group is making a claim on the Exports Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD).

The results for the six months to April 1980 were also delayed: they emerged last November as a pretax loss of £348,000 against a profit of £623,000. An interim gross dividend of 1.4p was paid earlier in the year compared with 2.2p the year before.

Sir Kenneth Selby, chairman, says that the board had difficulties in assessing claims likely to be agreed by the ECGD. He adds: "I have recalculated the half yearly results published on November 14, 1980." The first half year is now said to have produced a profit of £688,000 compared with the original £848,000 loss, an alteration that relates to the extent to which agreement has been reached with the ECGD and the value directors can place upon the claim.

Sir Kenneth added: "For the year ahead it is hoped that the major loss-making sectors will have been eliminated, and provided the Iran settlement is concluded, thereby releasing its heavy interest charge, 1981 should show reasonable improvements in total profits earned." However, the cut in interim dividend is followed by a final of only 1.43p gross, making 2.86p gross against 5.2p. The new dividend cost is less than £319,000. The shares duly fell 2p to 52p.

Briefly

Dixor-Strand says while the half year to March 31 shows a loss the company expected to return to profitability during the second half on a return to profitability a scheme of arrangement will be proposed so that dividends can be resumed without the need to provide first for the accumulated deficiency on profit and loss account.

Victoria Carpet Holdings: Dividend 0.7p (1.4) per year to March 31, pay on September 22. Turnover was £14.7m (£15.3m). Pretax loss £366,000 (profit £14,000). Loss per share 1.79p (earnings 1.16p).

Spring Grove has agreed, subject to shareholders' approval, to sell the assets and business relating to laundry and rental contracts with hospitals of the Netherlands subsidiary Nico Nijman Wassen Stomen. The sale is for a net consideration of 3.5p (20p) (approximately £975,000) after providing for residual costs, and is expected to be completed by August 1, 1981.

Delyn turnover for year to February 1 totalled £6.5m (£6.1m). Pretax profit was £19,000 (£120,000) and earnings per share were 0.9481p (2.4432p). No dividend (same).

Dewk Group: Dividend nil making nil (0.34p) for the year to December 31. Turnover £2.2m (£3.6m). Pretax loss £250,000 (£280,000 profit). Loss per share 4.33p (3.59p eps).

Bertrams: No interim (same). Turnover for half year to March 29 was £1.65m (£1.66m) and profit was £15,000 (loss £48,000).

David Scott Group: Has acquired the capital of BBR Electronic Systems. Some £22,292 cash was paid on account on completion. Two further tranches of £20,000 each are payable on the achievement respectively of specified order and sales levels by BBR after 1982.

H. C. Slingsby's order book is better than during the last three months of 1980. But the bank of orders week by week lacks consistency so that at this stage even confident predictions of an improvement is impossible.

Dobson Park down one third midway

By Catherine Gunn

Mining equipment and power tools group Dobson Park Industries has been hard hit by the combined effects of a strong pound on its European export profits, and the limits imposed by the government on the National Coal Board, the group's major customer.

In the six months to March 28, Dobson Park's pretax profits fell more than a third to £5.1m while sales slipped from £88.7m to £83.5m, of which £44.6m came from the NCB. Second-half profits are likely to show a similar decline, Mr Graham Edwards, finance director, said yesterday, but the dividend should not be cut. The interim payment has been maintained, at 2.71p gross. In 1979-80 the group made

£15.3m pretax, but was already feeling the effects of the NCB's reduced spending power in the second half, when profits declined slightly.

Pre-tax profits on mining equipment were 26 per cent down at £3.45m, while profits on power tools collapsed from £16.1m to £416,000 including the first-half contribution from its 1980 acquisition Wolf Electric Tools. Before acquisition Wolf was making about £2.5m pretax a year.

Profits on Dobson's "Kango" pneumatic hammers and Wolf Tool's products are being severely hit by the continuing strength of sterling against European currencies, notably the Deutsche mark and the French franc.

Sears Holdings expects difficult year ahead

The current year may well be more difficult, Mr Leonard Sainer, chairman of Sears Holdings, says in his annual report. But, he says, there are positive signs now that the rate of inflation is slowing.

While this is comforting there is no room for relaxation and indeed in some respects the current year may well be more difficult, he says.

He goes on to say that the retailing businesses are well placed to take advantage of any upturn in consumer spending. Mr Sainer is hopeful of an improvement in the engineering

division as a result of changes which have been and are being made. Overall, he says, a forecast for this year would not be prudent or realistic.

Price Waterhouse, the auditors, qualify on the basis of the group's accounting for stocks and work in progress. Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and replacement value, a departure from accounting standards, while production overheads are not included in arriving at the cost of work in progress held by the group's property development subsidiaries, also a departure.

Howard & Wyndham loss of £1.7m

Howard & Wyndham, now trimmed down to publishers W. H. Allen and Jewellers Ciro, turned in net losses of £1.7m for the 18 months to December 31, in the previous year the net loss was £842,000.

Sales for the period were £17.5m against £15.2m for the year before. Trading profits were £89,000 but after exchange difference this turned into a loss of £86,000, while interest cost £768,000, exceptional items £227,000 and tax £181,000. The loss per share came out at 20.3p against 9p in the year.

The company now believes that W. H. Allen is ready to benefit from the general improvement in the United Kingdom publishing market which is expected during the current year. Rationalization in this area has largely been completed with the closure of Murrys Kemmister Books. Full provision for these closures has now been made.

Ciro is said to be trading satisfactorily in spite of the slow down in retailing. Eleven new shops were opened in the period.

The company now has bank balances totalling £282,000 and overdrafts of £361,000. Share capital and reserves have fallen from £3.35m to £1.75m and there will be no dividends on ordinary, preferred or the special preferred shares.

Barker & Dobson back in profit

Confederation and retailer Barker & Dobson Group turned round from a pre-tax loss of £497,000 to a profit of £469,000 in the year to March 28.

Sales rose from £31.2m to £35.5m with confectionery sales rising from £17.5m to £18.2m and retail sales from £14m to £17.3m.

An extraordinary item of £73,000 reflects costs redundancies and severance payments in the confectionery division.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	12%
Barclays	12%
BCCI	12%
Consolidated Crdts	12%
C. Hoare & Co	12%
Lloyds Bank	12%
Midland Bank	12%
Nat Westminster	12%
TSB	12%
Williams and Glyn's	12%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 9%, up to £50,000 10%, 9%, over



ANGLO AMERICAN INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

PREFERENCE DIVIDEND
Dividend No. 53 of 10p per cent for the six months ending June 30, 1981, has been declared payable on August 15, 1981 to holders of the six per cent cumulative preference shares who are registered in the books of the company at the close of business on June 19, 1981.

The preference share transfer registers and registers of members will be closed from June 20, 1981 to July 3, 1981, both days inclusive, and warrants will be noted from the Johannesburg and United Kingdom offices of the transfer secretaries and registrars of the company.

Registered preference shareholders paid from the United Kingdom will receive the United Kingdom currency equivalent on August 4, 1981 of the value of their dividends (less appropriate taxes). Any such preference shareholders may, however, elect to be paid in South African currency provided that any such request is received at the offices of the company's transfer secretaries on or before June 19, 1981.

The effective rate of non-resident shareholders' tax is 14.3981 per cent.

The dividend is payable subject to the conditions which can be inspected at the head and London offices of the company and, also at the offices of the company's transfer secretaries, Consolidated Share Registrars Limited, 22, Marshfield Street, Johannesburg 2001, and Charter Consolidated Limited, Charter House, Park Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8EO.

By order of the Board

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATE OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED

Secretaries

Per W. G. Nicol, Divisional Secretary

Head Office: 44, Main Street, Johannesburg 2001, June 6, 1981.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Gross Div	Yld %	P/E	Actual	Taxed
76	39	40	Ailsburg Group	70	-1	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4	
52	21	22	Armstrong & Rhodes	48	-	1.4	2.9	19.8	45.7	
200	92	93	Bardon Hill	200	-	9.7	4.8	7.5	12.8	
104	88	89	Deborah Services	104	-	5.5	5.3	5.1	9.8	
126	88	89	Frank Horsell	104	-	6.4	6.2	3.3	6.0	
110	39	40	Frederick Parker	61	+1	1.7	2.8	26.5	-	
110	64	65	George Blair	64	-	3.1	4.8	-	-	
110	69	70	Jackson Group	106	-	6.9	6.5	4.0	8.2	
123	103	104	James Burroughs	129	-	7.9	6.1	10.6	10.6	
324	244	245	Robert Jenkins	327	-	31.3	2.9	-	-	
55	50	51	Scruttons "A"	55	-	5.2	9.6	4.0	4.0	
224	202	203	Torday Limited	202	-	15.1	7.5	7.8	13.4	
23	8	9	Twinkl Ord	15	-	-	-	-	-	
90	68	69	Twinkl 15% ULS	79	+1	15.0	19.0	-	-	
106	35	36	Unilock Holdings	42	-	3.0	7.1	6.5	10.2	
50	81	82	Walter Alexander	101	-	5.7	5.6	5.6	8.9	
263	181	182	W. S. Yeates	235	-	13.1	5.1	4.8	9.8	

Some exporters think Bank of America only handles U.S. based trade



So how did we help Land Rovers get to Kenya?

In 1981, Land Rovers are helping Kenya's agriculture develop. BL are shipping Land Rover kits to CMC Holdings Ltd in Kenya, and winning new export sales in this huge market. £14 million of orders are involved, largely financed by Bank of America in London. Our ECGD team played a vital role.

For other British exporters, we have set up complex transactions with our Trade Finance officers and Letter of Credit department, involving complete financial packages. We have arranged documentary collections in many countries. Wherever we have a local presence, we use it to save time and speed cash flow for our customers. We have also helped with every aspect of foreign exchange - from consultancy to contracts.

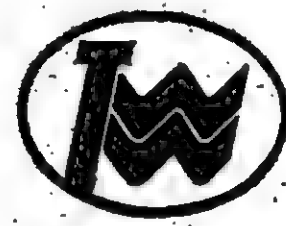
For trade finance, contact Michael Hall, Bank of America, 25 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4HN. Tel: 01-236 2010.



For every transaction, we have the resources and the presence necessary to deliver - from London. And so we should have. This year we celebrate 50 years in the City. We are also represented in Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh, with individual account officers to service your company's specific needs. They are backed by a team of specialists dedicated to delivering quality service on time. We are confident that this is the way to help British companies succeed in export markets.

Next time you think of trade finance, think of us. And our team.

BANK OF AMERICA
Think what we can do for you.



Thos. W. Ward Limited

TUNNEL

ordinary shareholders

YOUR LAST CHANCE

TO ENSURE THE BENEFITS OF WARD'S OFFERS IS TO ACCEPT

BY POST TODAY OR HAND DELIVERY ON MONDAY TO

National Westminster Bank Limited, New Issues Department, P.O. Box No. 79, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Street, London EC2P 2BD.

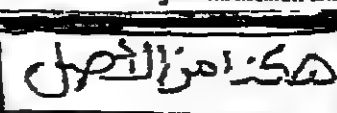
Forms of Acceptance must arrive there by 3 p.m. on Monday, 8th June, 1981.

- We believe our offers would already have succeeded if RTZ had not intervened for, in our opinion, their own commercial self-interest.
- We believe RTZ are only interested in stopping our offers. You risk a fall in value if our offers fail as RTZ is offering nothing in place. RTZ have not approached us and we own 42% of Tunnel votes.
- Our offers are real and valuable - 476p* under the basic terms, up to 517p* under the share election and 435p under the cash election compared with 325p on 12th March before our offers were announced.
- RTZ is buying Tunnel shares now and keeping the price up but what happens when they stop?
- If you do not accept and the offers fail you cannot count on the value of your shares holding up particularly if we decide to sell out.

POST YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF WARD'S OFFERS NOW

*Based on the middle-market price for a Ward ordinary share of 128p at 10.30 a.m. on 5th June, 1981.

The directors of Thos. W. Ward Limited have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed above are fair and accurate and they jointly and severally accept responsibility accordingly.



June 5	June 4	June 5	June 4	June 5	June 4	
53 1/2	53	Fst Penn Corp	4 1/2	4 1/2	Pub Ser El & Gas	17 1/2
29 1/2	27 1/2	Ford	23 1/2	23 1/2	Raytheon	98 1/2
26 1/2	26	GAF Corp	16 1/2	16	RCA Corp	24 1/2
					Rennick Steel	20 1/2

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1960-61	High	Low	High	Low
1961-62	High	Low	High	Low
1962-63	High	Low	High	Low
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1966-67	High	Low	High	Low
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1969-70	High	Low	High	Low
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1980-81	High	Low	High	Low
1981-82	High	Low	High	Low
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2045-				

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Sharp falls in most sectors

6 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1980-81				1980-81				1980-81				1980-81				1980-81			
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Football

Sansom is omitted but Keegan and Watson are retained

From Norman Fox
Football Correspondent
Budepest, June 5

England's most important game in the era of Ron Greenwood, against Hungary here tomorrow (7 pm), will be taken with an air of surprise that appears intent on containment. Pressure on the manager to drop at least two of his most experienced internationals, Watson and Keegan, has been resisted in a selection containing four more choices.

For this crucial World Cup game in the Nép Stadium, against Hungary here tomorrow (7 pm), will be taken with an air of surprise that appears intent on containment. Pressure on the manager to drop at least two of his most experienced internationals, Watson and Keegan, has been resisted in a selection containing four more choices.

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A lull before the moment of truth. Greenwood (right) looks worried after an England workout.

Hungary's strength is in the speed of its attack, a powerfully built team with a number of players who are also good defenders. The team is led by Ferenc Puskas, a former world champion, who is now a coach. The team is also known for its tactical discipline and teamwork.

England's manager, Ron Greenwood, has been under pressure to make changes to his squad. However, he has decided to retain Keegan and Watson, despite criticism from some fans and the media. Greenwood believes that his current selection is the best one to face Hungary.

Fashanu adds the finishing touch in a farcical climax

From Nicholas Harbington
Keszthely, June 5

England's 2-1 victory by England in tonight's under-21 match kept them in the top of their European Cup. The match was a farcical climax, with Fashanu adding the finishing touch in the 89th minute.

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A new ball game kicks off as League swings to Left

Football joined the swing to the left yesterday when Jack Dunnett, Labour MP for Nottingham East, was installed as new Football League President.

Football joined the swing to the left yesterday when Jack Dunnett, Labour MP for Nottingham East, was installed as new Football League President. Dunnett's appointment marks a significant shift in the political direction of the Football League.

The new president, Dunnett, has promised to bring about a more democratic and transparent system of governance for the Football League. He has also pledged to support the interests of the fans and the clubs.

Cycling

Downs forced to concede to Norwegian

By John Willcockson

All the right moves were made by the British rider as he conceded to the Norwegian, who won the final 43 seconds. The race was a tactical battle, with both riders showing great skill and endurance.

The race was a tactical battle, with both riders showing great skill and endurance. The Norwegian rider, who was a favorite, proved to be the stronger of the two.

Rugby Union

Partnership that can put England back in business

From Peter West
Rugby Correspondent
Buenos Aires, June 5

A close encounter of a second kind, as the English and Argentine sides met in the second test. The partnership between the two teams was a key factor in the outcome of the match.

The partnership between the two teams was a key factor in the outcome of the match. The English players showed great skill and teamwork, while the Argentine players also performed well.

Springboks may profit from any Irish errors

From a Special Correspondent
Durban, June 5.—The Irish rugby team will be looking for a victory in the first international against South Africa at Capetown.

The Irish rugby team will be looking for a victory in the first international against South Africa at Capetown. The Springboks are a formidable team, and the Irish will need to be at their best to compete.

The Irish players are well-prepared for the challenge and are confident of a good performance. The match is expected to be a high-quality contest.

Tennis

Pecci is no mere courtier in the service of the sovereign of clay

From Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent
Paris, June 5

Bjorn Borg, who has won four of his six matches with Ivan Lendl, will play the Czechoslovakian again in Sunday's final of the French Open. Borg is a formidable player, and Lendl is a tough opponent.

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Lloyd given direct entry into Wimbledon

John Lloyd, Britain's top singles player, has been given a direct entry into the Wimbledon championships, despite his current low world ranking.

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Lloyd is a talented player, and his entry into Wimbledon is a significant achievement. He is expected to perform well in the tournament.

NZ win first round in battle of Lewises

By David Powell

After securing the most notable victory of his career by beating Brian Teacher, the top seed, Richard Lewis was defeated in the semi-final round of the Bechamman tournament in New Zealand.

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Lewis is a strong player, and his defeat is a disappointment. He will be looking to bounce back in the next round.

Golf

First Frenchman putts his way to amateur final

By Peter Ryde

The final of the British amateur championship today over 36 holes will be between Philippe Plouffeux, a Frenchman, and a British player. Plouffeux is a talented player, and his victory would be a significant achievement for France.

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All-Scottish final today in British women's event

By John Hennessy
Golf Correspondent

Bella Robertson and Wilma Aitken will contest an all-Scottish final of the British women's event. The match is expected to be a high-quality contest, with both players showing great skill and technique.

The match is expected to be a high-quality contest, with both players showing great skill and technique. The winner will advance to the next round of the tournament.

RADIO



England v .

Radio 1
5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Playgroup.
8.00 Tony Blackburn. 10.00 Ste
Wright. 1.00 pm 25 Years of Rock
10: 1964. † 2.00 A King in New
York. † 2.05 Paul Gambaccini. † 4.
Walters' Weekly. † 5.00 Rock On.
6.00 In Concert. † 7.00 International
Soccer Special. 9.00 Close.
VHF RADIOS 1 and 2. 5.00 am W
Radio 2. 1.00 pm With Radio 1. 7.
5.00 am With Radio 2.

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Scotich

At London except: Starts 9.10 a.m.
10.00 a.m. Numbers at 10.00 a.m.
10.00 Welcome Back North 10.23 Local
10.23 Local 10.46 Local 11.00 Local
20.00 North 12.00-12.30 m. Clapper
12.30-12.45 Local 11.30 Magnolia
12.30 m. Closedown.

Yorkshire

At London except: Starts 9.00 a.m. Clapper
9.00 a.m. Numbers at 9.00 a.m.
10.00 9.25 Spiderman 9.50 Local
10.00 Local 10.23 Local 10.46 Local
Film: Kluge/Spyglass (Burt Reynolds)
11.00 11.25 11.50 Ten-in-the-Hand
12.00-12.30 m. Supermarket Previews
12.30-12.45 Supermarket Previews
12.45-1.00 a.m. Caroline Sierrit.

Ulster

At London except: Starts 9.15 a.m.
9.15 a.m. Numbers at 9.15 a.m.
10.00 10.00 Welcome Back North 10.23 Local
10.23 Local 10.46 Local 11.00 Local
20.00 North 12.00-12.30 m. Clapper
12.30-12.45 Local 11.30 Magnolia
12.30 m. Closedown.

Border

At London except: Starts 9.10 a.m.
9.10 a.m. Numbers at 9.10 a.m.
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10.23 Local 10.46 Local 11.00 Local
20.00 North 12.00-12.30 m. Clapper
12.30-12.45 Local 11.30 Magnolia
12.30 m. Closedown.

TELEVISION

B15 Ring 01-500-4411. 5.00 Stop 40
2.00 Aliza Kornet'y. 8.00 Stop 40
of Jam.
VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 at
With Radio 2. 5.00pm With Radio
10.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received on
the following frequencies:

(L243H, 663m) at the following time

6.00 am Newswk 7.00 World News
9.00 am News 10.00 British News
Our Own Correspondent 1.35 The
News 2.00 News 3.00 News 4.00
Reflections 5.15 The Pleasure's Yours
6.00 News 7.00 News 8.00 News
British Press 8.45 People and Politics
9.00 News 10.00 British News 11.00
and Men 12.30 Sunday Papers 1.15
The News 2.00 News 3.00 News 4.00
11.15 Letter from America 1.30 PM
News 2.00 News 3.00 News 4.00
News 5.00 World News 5.15
Short Story 1.45 The Tony Martin
Show 2.00 News 3.00 News 4.00
of Thorpe 3.00 Daily Newsview 3.15
Correspondent 4.00 World News 5.00
Commentary 5.15 From Our Own
Correspondent 5.30 News 6.00
Commentary 7.15 Letterbox 8.00
News 9.00 Home 9.15 News 9.30

10.05 World News 10.05 Science 10.05
Action 10.40 Reflections 10.40
Sprinkles! 11.00 World News 11.00
Commentary 11.15 Letter from
America 11.30 Brain of Britain 1987
12.00 World News 12.05 Ann News
12.10 The Radio 12.15
12.30 Religious Service 1.00 What If?
1.15 The Golden Age Pop 2.00
America 2.15 Review of the British
Press 2.15 of Kings and Men 2.30 AC
2.45 The Radio 3.00
Channel Britain 3.15 A Composer Speaks
3.30 Anything Goes 4.45 Notes from
London and New York 5.00
5.35 Reflections 5.00 World News
Summary 5.45 Borderlands

Channel

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